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You can fight City Hall!

Massive ACT UP/NY demo targets Koch, city, for dismal response to AIDS

By Chris Bull

NEW YORK — "Hey Ed honey, Spend the Money, AIDS Won't Wait," chanted over 3,000 spirited demonstrators at "Target City Hall," a March 28 ACT UP protest. Over 200 AIDS activists were arrested for blocking the nearby Brooklyn Bridge to dramatize their demand that the city respond more quickly and effectively to the epidemic. New York Mayor Ed Koch was often the target of ridicule, much of it humorous, for his "negligent" role in the epidemic. Several demonstrators toted signs depicting a recent *New York Newsday* headline quoting Koch saying "I'm heterosexual," under which was written "And I'm Robert Redford," "And I'm Carmen Miranda" or "I'm Keith Hernandez," (see related story, page 16).

"There is a tidal wave of AIDS cases coming and ... all the city has is a pile of reports, none of which have been acted on," said Mark Harrington of ACT UP at a press conference organized by the group. ACT UP protested what it believes is the "imminent collapse of New York's health care system" due to Koch's "mismanagement of the AIDS epidemic." ACT UP criticized Koch for:

- cutting \$20 million from the city's hospital budget last year;
- denying adequate housing for more than 5,000 homeless people with HIV-related illnesses;
- failing to fund effective education programs designed for people most at risk for HIV infection;
- dismantling city-funded drug use treatment programs. "As the first and hardest hit city regarding the AIDS crisis, New York represents the future of every city in America which is struggling with this

epidemic," said Alan Klein of ACT UP.

Koch on the defensive

Mayor Koch, who faces a tough reelection campaign this summer against Black City Councilor David Dinkins and federal prosecutor Rudolph Giuliani, has called ACT UP "a bunch of fascists" and condemned their distinctive brand of street activism. But, at a hastily scheduled press conference at City Hall (briefly interrupted by ACT UP) only hours after the demonstration, Koch softened his tone toward ACT UP. "Members of ACT UP who are demonstrating in City Hall Park today are concerned and committed people. And as the mayor of a city that does more than any other city or state to serve the needs of those with AIDS and to prevent its spread to others, I understand their frustration and their anger.... Though I may be the object of their signs and slogans, I bear them no grudge," Koch told the press in a prepared statement.

ACT UP spokesperson Michael Signorile said Koch is now motivated by fear. "The city is crumbling and he knows it. He can't ignore 3,000 protesters; he can't pretend everything is all right any longer." As for Koch's argument that the city does more than any other city to serve the needs of PWAs, Signorile said "New York spends more money emptying the garbage than any other city because it is the biggest city and has more garbage. But if you look at it in terms of per capita expenditures, other cities such as San Francisco win out. There are not PWAs waiting for hospital beds and shelters in San Francisco. There are not 5,000 PWAs on the streets. There are not 50,000 IV drug

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This is a picture of the spirochete, the germ that causes syphilis.

**SYPHILIS
AND AIDS:
WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?**

Censorship of ads generates publicity for women's march

Huge numbers expected as April 9 nears

By Chris Bull

WASHINGTON — Organizing for the massive April 9 March for Women's Lives/Women's Equality hit a momentary snag when 26 radio stations in Boston, New York, Baltimore, Washington and Philadelphia refused to air paid advertising promoting the March. Still, organizers predict it will be the largest women's march ever with activists from all over the country descending on the capital to demand reproductive rights for women.

The March, organized by the National Organization for Women (NOW), will demand that Congress pass the Equal Rights Amendment and that the Supreme Court uphold *Roe v. Wade*, the 1972 decision legalizing abortion. The court is expected to rule on a challenge to legalized abortion, *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services* by June. The case involves the constitutionality of a Missouri law that declares that human life begins at the "moment of inception" and that "unborn children have protectable interest in life, health and well being."

The law, one of the most restrictive abortion laws in the country, bars the use of public funds to assist women having abortions and requires doctors who believe a pregnancy is beyond 20 weeks to test weight and lung development to determine if the fetus could survive outside the womb. Activists say they believe the case signals a willingness on the part of the conservative majority on the court to overturn or further limit women's legal access to abortion.

Several radio stations told NOW that the ad, which features the voice of actress Susan Sarandon warning that a woman's right to abortion is under siege, was too "controversial" and unfit for radio audiences. It depicts a bomb exploding at an abortion clinic and Operation Rescue activists chanting anti-abortion slogans. The voice of a

mock newscaster, played by Sarandon, cuts in to promote the April 9 March. Vice President Dan Quayle is also depicted telling a young woman that she should not have the legal right to an abortion even if she is raped by her father.

"It's really scary," Nancy Buermeyer, NOW's liaison to the lesbian and gay community, told *GCN*. "We are just trying to inform people the right to abortion could be overturned. But it's not even allowed to go on the airwaves." Buermeyer pointed out that lesbian and gay issues, as well as abortion, are often considered by programmers as too controversial for "mainstream" audiences.

Ironically, said Ellen Convisser, president of the Boston chapter of NOW, the rejection of the ad has brought much free publicity for the March. She said that although only two out of nine Boston stations (WBCN and WZOU) agreed to run the ad, press coverage of the "censorship" made up for the loss of radio time. "The best analogy I can think of is with Salman Rushdie's book. Everyone wants to hear about the ad now. We were having trouble getting media coverage, but not any more. Frankly, this really did a lot of work for us," said Convisser.

Convisser said she senses considerable excitement in Boston and around the country for the March. "It's amazing. The response has been overwhelming. People are in and out of our office constantly," she said. One hundred fifty buses carrying over 10,000 people from eastern Massachusetts are scheduled to head for Washington. National organizers predict hundreds of thousands will participate in the March.

Buermeyer said she expects lesbians and gay men to turn out in large numbers for the

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The Cher! affinity group at March 28 demo: "First of all, we want to look fabulous"

Ben Thornberry

Quote of the week

“Yes, but that’s gays and lesbians. It’s a lot casier to dump on gays and lesbians than on half a million women!”

— *A Boston Amtrak ticket salesperson, speaking to a lesbian reproductive rights activist who was purchasing her ticket to attend the April 9 March for Women’s Lives and Women’s Equality. The salesperson had suggested that he thought the National Organization for Women — the sponsor of the march — should have chartered trains with Antrak for the event. His comment came after the lesbian reminded him of Antrak’s backing out of its agreement to provide such trains for participants in the October 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.*

Prostitutes to carry ID cards in India

NEW DELHI — In an effort to identify prostitutes who are HIV antibody-positive, Indian officials have instituted a policy of distributing identification cards to prostitutes working in Dehli and Bombay. According to the *India Tribune*, the cards will “enable [prostitutes] to get free medical aid on priority basis and provide the opportunity for doctors to get them tested for AIDS.”

A spokesperson for the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), which is sponsoring the program, told the *India Tribune* that the card was “not a license to practice the profession, but only a device to get the prostitutes to ICMR centers for AIDS tests.” The spokesperson also said that over 200 cards had been distributed in Delhi and that the process had also begun in Bombay, where an estimated 30,000 women work as prostitutes. The spokesperson said one out of 10 prostitutes in Bombay was HIV antibody-positive.

The news report did not say what officials planned to do once they “identify” antibody-positive prostitutes. Nor did it say whether the health records of those tested will remain confidential.

□ Jennie McKnight

Gay Chinese marriage causes uproar

BEIJING — The marriage of a farmer and a former soldier created international news when officials became suspicious of the bride’s heavy makeup and performed a physical examination that revealed she was male. According to the United Press International. Ye Xing, 26, a village family planning worker, and Li Linzi, 30, a farmer, held a public wedding ceremony Jan. 10 in Xiangdiuan Village in Fujian province in southern China.

The report, which was taken from the *Tianjin Daily*, said Ye, a former soldier in the Chinese army who received eight merit awards, wore stylish women’s clothes, heavy makeup and “acted like a woman.” After the physical examination left the village health committee “deeply convinced the bride was male, without any sex change phenomena,” Ye “acknowledged his homosexuality and was fired from his village post,” according to the report. He is reportedly still living with Li.

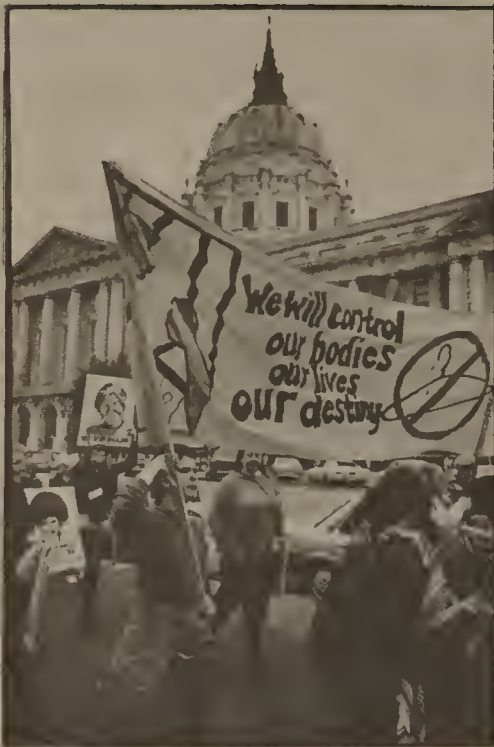
□ Jennie McKnight

International Women’s Day — SF

SAN FRANCISCO — Over 400 women demonstrated here March 8 in celebration of International Women’s Day. The group marched through the city’s streets, stopping at an armed forces recruitment center and a phoney abortion clinic run by anti-abortionists before a final rally at the Federal Building.

The protesters expressed their support for the struggles of women internationally, with chants such as “Stop the U.S. war machine from El Salvador, Palestine to the Philippines.” The rally’s featured speaker was Mercedes Salgado of the revolutionary FMLN in El Salvador.

Three women were arrested for malicious mischief during the protest, which was



Women march in San Francisco

marked by a heavy police presence on horseback and motorcycles. The event was sponsored by Women Against Imperialism and the International Women’s Day Demo Committee.

□ Jennie McKnight

Real men support abortion

BOSTON — Okay, so maybe they don’t eat quiche, but a group of Boston-based feminist men, calling themselves “Real Men,” support reproductive rights for women. “Real Men” have organized “an Abortion Speakout for Pro-choice Men” on Wednesday, April 5, at 7:30 p.m.. The speakout will take place in the Student Lounge at the University of Massachusetts Boston Campus, 100 Arlington St. (Park Square Campus).

“We believe that men need to confront the reality that what is at stake in the abortion debate is nothing less than the sexual freedom and equality, not to mention the lives, of the women we love. We believe that men who profess to care about the equality of women have a responsibility to support pro-choice efforts....”

“‘Real Men’ also encourage men to share their experiences around abortion with each other.... [M]ost men who have been involved in an abortion decision are zealously private about their personal lives and relationships; we rarely if ever discuss the experience with family or friends. This does not necessarily mean that the experience has little meaning for us....”

Scheduled speakers at the event include Rep. Bob Havern (D-Arlington); Dr. Waldo Fielding, Medical Director of Preterm Health Services; Chandler Creedon, counselor for men dealing with abortion-related issues; and Woody Kay, a Northeastern Univ. political science professor involved in the pro-choice movement. There will also be personal stories from men whose lives have been touched by an abortion decision, and letters from men requesting anonymity will be read. For more information, contact Jackson Katz, (617) 782-7838.

□ Liz Galst



IWD march in Sydney

I.W.D. — Australia

SYDNEY — Celebrants of International Women’s Day here braved wet, windy and wild weather in their March 11 street march and rally. The event was characterized by a spirit of camaraderie among the 400 par-

ticipants, which spread to the many onlookers along the route.

Marchers carried a variety of colorful and bold banners, whose messages highlighted issues or identified groups, like the Gay and Lesbian Immigration Task Force. Aboriginal and Latin American women were also among the banner-toting participants.

The march ended in Hyde Park South, where speakers addressed local and international women’s issues. One speaker stressed the issue of homelessness in and around Sydney, where the waiting time for public housing is eight years.

□ Kendall Lovett

Participants sought

BURNABY, B.C. — A feminist scholar in Canada seeks participants for her study of female to male transsexuals and passing women. Those involved in the research project would participate in two interviews or complete a questionnaire about their life experiences.

The researcher, Holly Devor, is planning to write a book about female to male sex/gender changers, passing women, and the social construction of gender. To participate or for further information, write to Holly Devor, Women’s Studies Dept., Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6 Canada; or call (604) 874-1387.

□ Jennie McKnight

HIV incubation estimate revised

SAN FRANCISCO — A recent study conducted by researchers at the University of California at San Francisco claims that the time it takes to develop full-blown AIDS after being infected with HIV is longer than previously estimated. HIV is a virus thought by many to be a cause of AIDS. The new study, based on data collected from gay men in the city, says 9.8 years is the “median incubation period,” for AIDS, meaning that half of the men in the study would develop AIDS in less time and half in more, according to the *New York Times*. Previous estimates, based on research with smaller numbers of people, were seven to eight years.

According to the *Times*, the study’s findings did not address the issue of whether some HIV antibody-positive men will never develop AIDS. “It’s certainly possible, but I’m reluctant to say much about what’s going to happen beyond the data we have,” Peter Bacchetti, one of the researchers, was quoted as saying. The report did not say whether the estimated median incubation period applied to people who were not represented in the research sample.

□ Jennie McKnight

Experimental treatments released in Canada

OTTAWA — After months of public protests and lobbying efforts by various AIDS and health activists, The Health Protection Branch of the Canadian health ministry announced that all experimental AIDS treatments are eligible to be released on a compassionate use basis to doctors through its Emergency Drug Release Program (EDRP).

Before the announcement, federal officials had refused requests for the drugs, saying extensive clinical trials had to be conducted before the drugs could be approved. Under the new policy, physicians can request any unmarketed drug currently being developed or tested by a drug company anywhere in the world, according to *Volume*, a gay paper in Buffalo, New York. The manufacturer of the drug has the discretion to decide whether to provide it to the Canadian EDRP, and can set any price for the treatment.

Tim McCaskell, chair of Toronto’s AIDS Action Now group, was quoted as saying “There seems to be a change in the political climate, but we need to make it clear to the government that releasing a few drugs on compassionate grounds is not enough. There’s a whole range of issues regarding treatment and care for people with AIDS

that need to be addressed.”

U.S. citizens can gain access to the program by receiving a prescription by a participating Canadian doctor. For more information, contact the Emergency Drug Release Program in Ottawa, Canada, at (613) 933-3105.

□ Jennie McKnight

And a first in Canadian insurance benefits

TORONTO — The Canadian branch of Prudential Life Insurance Company of America has taken the unprecedented step of offering “living benefits” for life insurance policy holders who are “terminally ill” with AIDS. Although the policy offers benefits to anyone who is terminally ill, so far the only recipients of benefits under the program have been people with AIDS.

Under the policy, people whose applications for a waiver of their life insurance premiums due to disability indicate they are terminally ill can be offered the living benefits, according to the *New York Times*. According to the report, Prudential is examining the possibility of setting up a similar program in the U.S.

Ben Schatz, director of the National Gay Right’s Advocate’s AIDS Civil Rights Project, was quoted as saying, “The creativity of Prudential’s approach just points out how unimaginative and defensive the insurance industry generally has been in dealing with the AIDS crisis. The irony is that the need for such a program is much greater in the United States than in Canada, where they have national health insurance.”

□ Jennie McKnight

HIV antibody-positive gay men sought

BOSTON — A Boston researcher is seeking HIV antibody-positive gay men to participate in a study of “the psychological and social consequences of being both a gay man and HIV positive.” The study, conducted by Bruce Paradis, a doctoral candidate at Simmons College School of Social Work, will be strictly confidential and includes an interview and brief written questions.

Paradis, in his request for participants, outlines the goal of the project: “With the availability of HIV testing, many gay men have knowledge about themselves being HIV positive which has created emotional turmoil and disruption for them and their friends, lovers, family members, and coworkers. In order to better help those men and their significant others to cope with this new reality, health and mental health practitioners need knowledge about the usual reactions of those gay men most affected.”

If you are interested in participating in the study, contact Paradis at (617) 598-0219.

□ Jennie McKnight

March

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March. Nearly every national and local lesbian and gay organization has endorsed the March, she said. NOW is also considering organizing a lesbian and gay contingent for the March. “We know that people want to march together, but we probably won’t have the plans worked out until a few days before the March,” she said.

Boston NOW announced that speakers at the mobilization will include NOW president Molly Yard, former NOW president Eleanor Smeal, Massachusetts Lt. Gov. Evelyn Murphy, and celebrities Susan Sarandon, Morgan Fairchild, Jill Clayburgh, Oprah Winfrey, Alice Walker, Tyne Daly, and Bonnie Franklin. Buer-meyer said that “several open lesbians” would also address the rally, but that their names would not be released until a few days before the March.

Marchers will assemble on April 9 at 10:00 a.m. at the Washington Memorial. The March will begin at noon and end at a rally at the Capitol’s west side at 1:30 p.m.

Buses from Boston to Washington will leave from the Charles Street side of the Boston Common on Saturday, April 8 at

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Ian Johnson, 1947-1989

By Walter Krueckl

LOS ANGELES — Douglas A. Johnson, known as Ian, formerly of Roxbury, Massachusetts, died suddenly on March 20, 1989. He was a native of York, Maine, born on Aug. 17, 1947. Ian graduated from Saugus High School and Northeastern University.

Ian was a founding editor of *Gay Community News* and *Bay Windows*. He was the founding President of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at the First Church in Roxbury. He worked at Project Lambda, a youth advocacy program for gay youth in Boston. He was also one of the founding members of the Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance and the LA Foodbank for people with AIDS, and was involved in many other organizations on both coasts.



Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 15 at the First Church in Roxbury. Memorial donations may be sent to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at the First Church in Roxbury, P.O. Box 549, Roxbury, MA 02119.

□ filed from Boston

'Social Worker of the Year' draws fire

Honoring of homophobic priest Richard Craig creates controversy for otherwise pro-gay group

By Joseph Cice

BOSTON — The Massachusetts chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) has chosen Catholic Charities priest Richard Craig as Social Worker of the Year in a move that has outraged and shocked lesbians and gay men who have considered NASW pro-gay. Serving on the state's Foster Care Commission in 1985, Craig worked with homophobe Marie Parente in writing the opinion that allows for the removal of children from families with lesbian and gay foster parents. Craig is widely seen as opposing women's reproductive rights, safer sex education that includes recommending the use of condoms, and sex itself when not for "procreation."

Although Craig did not return *GCN's* calls, a worker in his office said that the issues raised by Craig's critics are "unbelievably personal. He's a fine gentleman." But Steven Busby of ACT UP/Boston told *GCN*, "With regard to AIDS, it is my understanding that his own Catholic Charities nominated him [for the award], praising his 'compassion and care for the dying.' But I strongly deny that compassion exists when his attitudes bring about those deaths. He clearly opposes use of condoms and condom education. That is an act of genocide on his part."

Moreover, Busby says that Catholic Charities took advantage of the award's loose application process. After discussions with NASW about the award, Busby concluded that "had they known of Craig's stands, he never would have received the award. NASW was tricked into giving this award. For a Catholic agency to use trickery and chicanery to advance its policy goals is certainly not Christian. It's a shame that from now on NASW will have to spend time weeding out deceit."

Judith Stone, President of NASW which

has about 8000 members, told *GCN*, "When you have a diverse organization it's highly unlikely you're going to achieve consensus. I think that's healthy." She added, "We have a democratic, above-board, ethical process [for selecting the award recipient]. We're not dissatisfied. In the years to come, there may be modifications.... NASW has a longstanding commitment to gay rights. That's not at issue here...[Craig] is being honored for his social work role with the homeless population and families of persons with AIDS." Craig's moral positions, she said, "are none of my business."

But a social worker who is a member of NASW and who wished to remain anonymous said that NASW surely regrets the situation. "Craig's report on foster care is blatantly homophobic; his ideas on foster care are crazy. Putting abused children into other parts of the extended family constitutes a greater risk for further abuse than placement with lesbian or gay parents who are loving."

Christina Crowe, who served with Craig on the Foster Care Commission and is Director of community-based operations at Judge Baker's Children's Center, told *GCN*, "It's not even an issue of fairness and dignity and human rights. It doesn't make sense that someone who must be so clearly aware of the tremendous unmet need for foster homes for kids would take such a limited stand.... By being unable to search out caring foster parents in every corner of our society, we are setting back foster care a full decade. There are hundreds of adolescent children stuck in shelters or living on the streets. It's an outrage."

While refusing to revoke the award, NASW is definitely trying to distance itself from Craig's beliefs. NASW Executive

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Mass. rights bill hanging on in House

Repeated votes in the House show support slipping with one more to go

By Judy Harris

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights bill, which has been introduced for the seventeenth consecutive year, was put to the test in two House votes March 27 and March 29. The bill withstood the tests both times, but by a dwindling margin. Moreover, before the bill actually passes out of the House, it must go through yet another "reconsideration vote" April 3.

If what transpired during the lapse between the March 27 vote and the March 29 vote — in which the number of on-record bill supporters dropped from 82 to 76 while the number of bill opponents increased from 68 to 72 — is an indication of waning support in the House, the reconsideration vote could prove fatal for the bill.

After the bill initially received a 14-vote majority, several opponents called for continued debate and a second vote. Two amendments were also attached to the bill that pro-rights lobbyists say will not weaken its effectiveness. In round two the bill received a majority of support but only by a four-vote margin.

Given the most recent setbacks in public support for the bill, not all lobbyists for the bill are in agreement about the likelihood of its passing in 1989.

"We had a disastrous day yesterday," said David LaFontaine of the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights, in reference to the March 29 hearing and vote.

Arline Isaacson, the Greater Boston Les-

bian and Gay Political Alliance's lobbyist for the bill, said, "Overall, we're very, very happy that yet again we've shown that a majority of the House of Representatives supports the bill. It's disappointing that the debate and the lobbying was so arduous. The debate itself was absolutely brutal. It was a no-holds-barred vicious debate by the opponents."

"They accused us of everything from sodomizing children to bestiality, and they succeeded in confusing enough legislators about the bill's intent and what the bill would do that we lost a number of votes during the debate," said Isaacson.

Isaacson added that even though some representatives — like Larry Giordano (D-Methuen) and Edward Teague (R-Yarmouth) — changed their March 27 Yea votes to Nay votes March 29, other bill supporters were unable to be present for the vote. As for the reconsideration vote that will come after 15 minutes of final debate April 3, Isaacson stated, "I think we'll win it."

If all goes as Isaacson predicts, with 36 weeks left in the legislative session, lobbyists and supporters of the bill will gear up for their perennial race against the clock to get it passed through several Senate committees and into the Committee on Bills in Third Reading at least 46 legislative calendar days before the end of the session. In 1987 and

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Black les/gay agenda set at leadership conference

Second annual gathering held in Los Angeles

By Angela Bowen

LOS ANGELES — Four hundred and fifty registered participants met here Feb. 18-20 at the second annual Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Conference. Preceded by an AIDS Institute Feb. 17, the conference ended with a roundtable in which a Black Lesbian and Gay agenda for the next five years was set.

Several speakers at the gathering reiterated the theme that coming out is empowering. Phill Wilson, founder of the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum (BGLLF), which sponsored the conference, stated, "There are those who say we don't exist...because we have not been willing to stand up and say, 'Yes, we are part of this community...'" Gay minister Carl Bean, founder of Unity Fellowship and of The National Minority AIDS Council of Los Angeles, said in his keynote address, "Come out of the closet ... the closet is death."

California Assemblywoman Maxine Waters, an outspoken advocate for lesbian and gay rights among lawmakers, said during a luncheon address on Sunday, "If you don't love yourself, who can love you? If you don't stand up for yourself, how can you expect someone to do that for you?" Her words sounded remarkably similar to those of the late gay civil rights activist Bayard Rustin, who said in an interview with the late Black Gay activist/writer Joseph Beam in the *Philadelphia Gay News*, "People will never fight for your freedom if you have not given evidence that you are prepared to fight for it yourself."

Along with the visionary speechmaking, the celebrations, tributes, awards, banquets, luncheons, etc., there was much nitty-gritty work to be done. The AIDS Institute on Friday brought together professional health workers, AIDS activists and community volunteers, and included many PWAs. Those who attended shared information in workshops, panels and informal discussions, and exchanged handouts on a wide variety of related topics, including:

- developing effective education and prevention programs specifically for Black women and gay/bisexual men;
- how to start an AIDS project;
- creating supportive relationships with

clergy toward involving churches in AIDS work;

- creating relationships with AIDS funders.

A fitting finish to the Friday AIDS Institute was a tribute to the late Sylvester starring Chaka Khan at Jewelle Williams' The Catch One — said to be the oldest Black Gay club in existence.

Some lesbians expressed concern when a workshop on body image named "Big, Black and Beautiful" by its presenter was re-named "Black and Beautiful" by conference organizers. The same presenter, Ayofemi Stowe Folayan, had scheduled a workshop on lesbian health, which was cancelled without notice. These changes and a general feeling among lesbians that the conference needed a more political and personal focus on lesbians, led to the formation of a lesbian caucus, which addressed a variety of topics, including the possibility of holding a Black Lesbian conference in 1991.

Notes of interest on the weekend:

- Craig Harris produced a daily newspaper for conference attendants on a desktop computer.

• L.A. Human Rights Commission President Morris Kite delivered a stirring address exhorting Black Lesbians and Gays to consider appointments to special city and state commissions and advisory boards as another way to gain visibility and influence, even as we attempt to run for political office.

- A group claiming to represent the "real" Black Lesbian and Gay community of Los Angeles distributed a two-page hand-out accusing the conference organizers, among other things, of "tinseltown frivolity," and of "ignoring the contributions of [New Alliance Party president] Dr. Lenore Fulani to the Gay and Lesbian movement."

• The roundtable group resoundingly approved support of Merle Woo in her case against the University of California. (The case has since been decided in Woo's favor. See *GCN* March 12 and March 19.)

Monday morning the roundtable session began, with approximately 60 representatives of Black Gay and Lesbian organizations from across the country gathered to set

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Fenway to administer Peptide T

Trial for non-toxic antiviral AIDS treatment to begin

By Judy Harris

BOSTON — Fenway Community Health Center announced March 28 it is beginning a new clinical trial for an experimental AIDS drug — Peptide T. Peptide T is considered by many to be a major breakthrough in antiviral AIDS treatments because of its non-toxicity. AZT, the only AIDS treatment fully approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is extremely toxic, and many people with AIDS cannot take it or must discontinue taking it after some period of time. The toxic side effects of AZT require a large percentage of long-term AZT users to undergo frequent multiple blood transfusions.

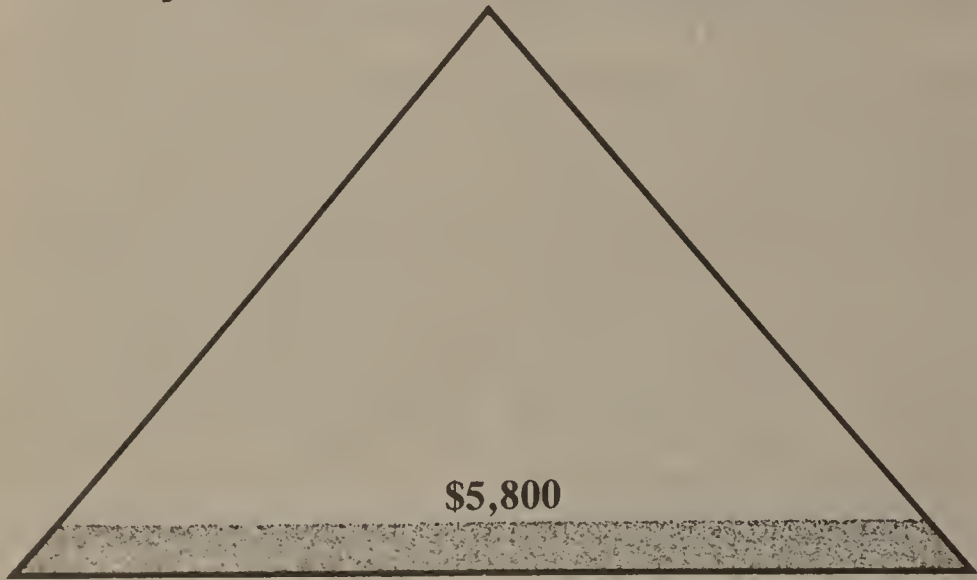
Clinical trials are used both to test drugs for their safety and efficacy, and to make

treatments available for people with life-threatening illnesses such as AIDS before the treatments have gone through the lengthy FDA approval process. The 45 adults chosen to participate in the Fenway trials will be taking part in one of more than 20 clinical trials for experimental AIDS treatments underway in Boston.

According to the drug's co-discoverers, Candace Pert and Michael Ruff of Integra Institute, Peptide T has an anti-viral effect by shielding cells in the body from HIV, a virus widely believed to be a cause of AIDS. Scientists at the University of Southern California and in Norway have administered the drug intravenously in pa-

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Join the GCN Challenge!



With the support of our readers, *GCN* is on its way to meeting its \$50,000 fundraising goal by May 1989.

Dollar for dollar, every donation received before May will be matched by a small group of anonymous donors, until we reach the grand total of \$50,000. So far, our readers have contributed \$2900, which is worth \$5800 to *GCN* because of our matching challenge.

With a new infusion of cash, *GCN* hopes to bring more pages of a better *GCN* to more readers in more cities and towns across the United States, primarily through a major promotional subscription campaign.

Now more than ever is the time to contribute to *GCN*. Please send your donations to **GCN Challenge**, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116. Checks made out to be to Bromfield Street Educational Foundation or *GCN* are tax deductible.

“Community Voices” and “Speaking Out” are parts of our efforts to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed in this space. We welcome all contributions except personal attacks. Copies of letters and “Speaking Out” contributions sent elsewhere are printed on a space-available basis. *GCN* reserves the right to edit letters and “Speaking Out” contributions for length and clarity, in consultation with the author. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the *GCN* membership.

Letter and “Speaking Out” contributions must be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Letters can be NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES. “Speaking Out” contributions can be NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES. Send to: Community Voices or Speaking Out, *GCN*, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Mass. Medicaid does fund aerosolized pentamidine

Dear *GCN*:

I read with great interest Andrew Miller's March 12-18 front-page story on New York State's recent decision to reimburse for aerosolized pentamidine (AP) through Medicaid. This is wonderful news indeed for a state whose largest city also has the largest caseload of AIDS in the nation, and the decision's importance cannot be overstated. But I was astonished to see that it was considered by *GCN* a “landmark decision,” since Massachusetts Medicaid has been reimbursing AP for months now. Jane Rosett, of New York's Community Research Initiative and PWA Coalition, is quoted in the article as saying “AP should have been funded even before it was approved for wider availability by the FDA. IN MASSACHUSETTS, IT WAS, through the combined efforts of the Executive Office of Human Services, the Department of Public Health, the Governor's AIDS Office, and Mass. Medicaid, all of whom had been sensitized to the AP issue to one degree or another by the constant pressure (and information) provided by ACT UP/Boston.

If this seems like grabbing credit where it may not be due, let me point out that it's not “credit” ACT UP/Boston is looking for. It's great that *GCN* covers New York. But if you publish articles about what's happening in New York and don't publish about simi-

lar things happening elsewhere, people may assume such things do not, and *cannot*, happen outside such major AIDS centers. It isn't so much a matter of wanting credit for particular accomplishments. What we do want is for people to see that they *can* bring about change, and that it doesn't take a whole lot of people, *or* money, *or* power from “above,” *or* a trillion-dollar pledge walk. ACT UP/Boston has learned quite a bit about how to bring about necessary changes. The change we don't know how to bring about is individual: within every single person affected by the AIDS crisis, everyone realizing for him or herself that one person, or one small group of people, *can* make a difference.

Calling New York's Medicaid decision the first in the nation is an oversight on the part of Andrew Miller, but I assume he's a New Yorker and can hardly be held responsible for not knowing what's happening in Massachusetts. But if Miller can be excused for not knowing about Mass. Medicaid's reimbursement policies, can *GCN*? One would think that, say, the editor should have known that New York's was not a “landmark decision,” and might have noticed before placing such a headline on the front page. Maybe a typesetter should have noticed, or a layout person. But no one at *GCN* seemed to realize Mass. Medicaid was already providing AP coverage. Didn't ACT UP/Boston's major insurance industry initiative last fall make an impression on anyone at the paper? It got us arrested twice, and eight of us still face trial. But shit, who cares? It's only local PWAs and those ACT UP/Boston assholes.

Let's review some local history: before Mass. Medicaid was even providing coverage for the otherwise uninsured, ACT UP/Boston began targeting the major commercial insurance carriers and threatening demonstrations unless they began primary PCP prophylaxis reimbursement (this was accomplished through what the *Boston Globe* called the “the unlikely alliance” between ACT UP/Boston and the tireless John Dixon of the Governor's AIDS Office). During the fall of 1988, ACT UP/Boston wrote to every health insurer in the Commonwealth to determine whether they reimburse for AP primary (i.e. pre-first bout) prophylaxis, and to demand that they begin doing so.

ACT UP/Boston was able to cancel two demonstrations because our targets met our demands by our stated deadlines. First, Blue

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in “editorials” represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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NEWS

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Black, Gay and inspired by Jesse Jackson

By Roger Carter

I had the pleasure of hearing Jesse Jackson speak right before the 1988 presidential election. That man is a powerful orator! As I listened to him speak, I felt the energy in the room mount to incredible proportions. There was never a public Black figure as strong as Jesse during the course of my formative years.

Jesse certainly moved me. He talked with vigor about many of the concerns that were important to me and my community. He addressed racism, the homeless, unwed mothers, lack of education and unity. And he didn't have notes or a script. I knew then why he is considered the most powerful orator alive.

When Jesse was encouraging people to vote, he really touched me. He talked about how people don't want Blacks to vote, but that voting is a right and responsibility that we fought for. He said the reason there isn't automatic voter registration is to discourage us from voting. He said we have to fight for what we want. He said that no one asked him to run for president, but he ran and fought hard for what he believed in, against the odds.

I've never seen a candidate answer press questions like Jesse did. He had sharp answers and facts with which to back them up. Sometimes the press paints Jesse as not so intelligent, or too militant. HUH! This was a smooth politician. He answered every question with finesse! At the end, a reporter started attacking Jesse, stressing the wishes of some people to create a new city — Mandela — out of the largely Black communities in Boston. He accused Jesse of ignoring grassroots issues. One of Jesse's aides got up and told Jesse not to bother with this irate reporter.

Jesse waved his hand for his associate to sit down. He told the crowd that he wanted to hear the concerns of everyone so that we can bridge our differences and come together, instead of fighting against one another. Can you imagine? How many politicians would allow a reporter to attack them? And Jesse handled him beautifully. He said that he supported the will of the people. He said that the ballot box represents the will of the people, and if the people vote to split from Boston, he supported them. Again, he was encouraging people to

get out and vote.

When we chanted the famous line from Martin Luther King, Jr., "I am somebody," I had tears in my eyes. I remembered when we were kids and we must have had King's speech on tape: "I may be unemployed, but I am somebody! I may be on welfare, but I am somebody!" When the chant started at Jesse's speech, at first I thought, "How embarrassing. This is not the 1960s. We don't go around yelling those self-empowering chants anymore. We are so much more sophisticated now."

But then the woman next to me moved me, like we were back in a revival. She got up on a chair and started shaking her fist and she repeated every word Jesse bellowed at the top of her lungs. Everyone was doing it! I could feel the pride exuding from everyone. This was Black pride at its finest. It was obvious to me that we had reached a new plateau with this man and that no matter what happened in the upcoming election, we were headed forward.

That's when my eyes got teary, and very quietly I uttered, "I am somebody!" I was embarrassed at first. I mean, I knew I was somebody, didn't I? Nope. I was embarrassed because I didn't really believe those words. Jesse was telling us to believe in ourselves. So I started to yell louder, too! For a moment, I felt all the pain, the homophobia, the self-inflicted racism lift out of me and vaporize. Hey, I realized, I really am somebody. And I can yell it if I want to.

I owe a lot to Jesse Jackson today. He helped me reach within myself and search for my pride again. And proud I was when I shook Jesse's hand after his speech and said, "It is a pleasure, sir."

Roger Carter is an active member of Men of All Colors Together-Boston and the AIDS Action Committee's Multicultural Concerns Committee. He is also a member of the Boston chapter of the National AIDS Task Force and the lavender stripe of the Rainbow Coalition.

The opinions expressed in Speaking Out are those of the author(s) and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership.

Fire devastates local woman

Dear GCN:

I am writing to ask for help for a dear friend who was burned out of her Cambridgeport, Mass. home on February 17. Maureen McCarthy lost everything she owned. Her beloved dog Lakota was killed, and Maureen barely escaped with her life.

Faulty wiring caused the three-alarm blaze at 30-32 Fairmont Street and smoke detectors failed to work. The building had to be torn down due to extensive damage. Experienced firefighters have been amazed that Maureen made it out of her third story apartment at all. She suffered severe smoke inhalation and major physical and emotional shock. This includes critical disruption in eating, sleeping, and basic body functions, as well as memory, concentration, and other cognitive problems. While improving somewhat, Maureen is still hospitalized. Upon release she will need extensive, long-term medical, emotional, vocational and financial support.

Some GCN readers may recall that as a former railroad worker, Maureen was a frequent speaker at public schools, job programs, and conferences on women in the trades. Recently she moved into a more nurturing job and was beginning to deal with long-term health and personal issues. Less than a week before the fire, Maureen was involved in a major gas explosion in Cambridge. Two and a half weeks after the fire her brother died. The fire and the loss of her four-legged companion has been especially devastating.

Financial contributions of any amount are urgently needed. Please send whatever you can to: Maureen McCarthy, c/o Margy Dowzer, 15 Templeton Parkway, No. 3,

Watertown, Mass. 02172 or call: (617) 923-8102 for more information.

There will be a benefit for all the former residents of 30-32 Fairmont Street on Sunday, April 16 from 2-7 p.m. at the Middle East Restaurant, 472 Mass. Ave., Central Square, Cambridge. A donation at the door brings you music, food, and good people. Bring friends.

Thanks to all who have helped out thus far.

Sincerely,
Margy Dowzer
Watertown, Mass.

Gay lexicography

Dear GCN:

It came as a surprise to see John Kyper in the February Book Review [GCN, Feb. 26-March 4, 1989] greet M. Max's slight compilation *Gay(s)language* as the first such dictionary since Rodger's *The Queens Vernacular/Gay Talk* (1972-77). My *Homolexis: A Historical and Cultural Lexicon of Homosexuality* appeared in 1985 and was reviewed by GCN. This book, which I plan eventually to issue in a revised edition, offers information on more than 600 terms, including foreign-language ones. It also provides an introduction evaluating the theoretical problems of gay/lesbian lexicography, as well as classified bibliography.

Homolexis is still available for \$7.95 (including postage) from GAU-NY, P.O. Box 480, Lenox Hill Station, New York, N.Y. 10021.

Sincerely,
Wayne R. Dynes
New York, N.Y.

To my community

Dear GCN:

I am a psychiatrically-trained physician who is currently incarcerated in the state of Connecticut for a first offense on false charges stemming from my relationships with minors, relationship which were loving and caring (though of course the state would have you believe otherwise). I am currently attempting to challenge my seven year prison sentence and to present an alternative sentencing plan acceptable to the judge.

During my psychiatric training, I have had experience with a wide variety of problems and treatments: depression, schizophrenia, anxiety, group therapy, medication, psychoanalysis and crisis intervention. I have done one-to-one psychotherapy of people with AIDS and related conditions as well as treated others with only the fear of AIDS. I also have had a one-month experience at the Johns Hopkins Sexual Disorders Clinic. I was highly regarded during my 3½ years of residency and considered a competent clinician.

Prior to my incarceration I was active in various social causes including the peace movement, pro-environmentalism, animal rights and those of sexual minorities. During my residency, as a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility, I produced a series of lectures on 'Medicine and the Nuclear Threat' at my hospital, where prior to that the level of consciousness on such issues was relatively low.

I've written various gay/AIDS, prisoner and professional organizations seeking support for 'coming out' work, but with few exceptions they have failed to respond to my offer of treatment of people with AIDS and related conditions. GCN has been one of those rare exceptions. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who may be in any way involved in such treatment who might be able to make use of a trained psychotherapist. A salaried position would allow me to offer rapid restitution to my so-called 'victims', but a volunteer position would be equally welcome.

I possess skills that are going to waste, and there are many PWAs and PWARCs out there suffering in isolation because of lack of treatment. If I can make a difference to just a few of them, it will be well worth it.

Please help by responding if I may be of assistance. Even if you don't have a specific position to offer, any kind of support in this effort would improve the chances I have of my parole plan being accepted by the judge.

Sincerely,
Joseph R. DeMasi, M.D.
PO Box 100 — 159244
Somers, CT 06071

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Use direct mail marketing, exchange advertising, free distribution, renewal campaigns, and other strategies to increase subscription and newsstand sales of the paper. Log and process weekly classified advertising. Participate in weekly workings of GCN, including staff meetings, collaborating on editorials, etc.

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To apply, please send resume and cover letter to GCN Job Search Committee, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116. Lesbians and gay men of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

Cross/Blue Shield of Mass. and its health maintenance organizations (HMOs), the state's largest health insurer, changed their policy, and then Bay State Health Care, the state's largest single HMO, changed theirs. (Although both demonstrations were cancelled because ACT UP/Boston's mere threat had done the trick, we did not receive a "Demo is averted" headline like ACT UP/NY did in GCN's Dec. 25, 1988-Jan. 7, 1989 issue when they cancelled a demo at NYU Medical Center. Oh well.)

Having worked to make AP available in an area in which it had been virtually unheard of, before ACT UP/Boston made it a *cause celebre* (and a household word), the group felt the next logical step was empowerment of patients: letting people know that, despite what their care providers might be telling them, AP does work, is safe, and is a crucial life-preserving measure that all PWAs should consider if their immune-system status warrants it. To this end, ACT UP/Boston placed a quarter-page ad in GCN's own pages four months ago, urging that HIV-positive individuals should find out about PCP prophylaxis, and should insist that their care providers learn about it too. ACT UP/Boston's ad listed several insurers providing reimbursement for AP primary prophylaxis, and *Medicaid was among them*. If Medicaid reimbursement for AP is front-page news now, wasn't it news then? Perhaps GCN didn't even bother to read the ad because it was "addressed" to PWAs, PWARCs, and HIV-infected individuals: "them," not "us."

No one expects GCN's paid collective staff or its volunteers to "memorize" everything ACT UP/Boston has ever said or done. But it's downright depressing that a story could get front-page-left headline coverage and contain basic untruths. And if the people responsible for producing GCN couldn't be bothered to read ACT UP/Boston's informational ad, they might at least have been expected to read the work of their own reporters. I speak in particular of Judy Harris' thoroughly researched and well-written January 15-21 piece on ACT UP/Boston's third Hancock demonstration, in which she pointed out that several insurers — Medicaid among them — were reimbursing for AP primary prophylaxis. Admittedly, ACT UP/Boston has little time to spend yapping with the press and begging them to publish what we consider literally life-and-death information. Maybe that's our fault, but we are small and lack human resources, so we spend our time working to bring about concrete change rather than court the Boston lesbian/gay press.

It begins to seem almost as if there were a conspiracy to ignore the work of the perennially unpopular ACT UP/Boston — or at least a feeling that what gets done by ACT UP/Boston on a local or national level is somehow "less important" than what others do elsewhere. But whether it's John Hancock, Blue Cross, Bay State, or Medicaid, to continue to ignore what's going on in Boston (versus New York), perpetuates the frustrating lack of community involvement in Boston, in Massachusetts, in New England. This continued lack of community involvement (and coverage) just perpetuates an already-serious lethargy. If GCN can find the resources to write articles about the goings-on in New York, can it not also take a look around its own backyard and ask why, for example, there seem to be no buyers' clubs in the area? What goes on at the Governor's Task Force on AIDS? How can people find out about experimental treatments in Boston? Is GCN so removed from the PWA community that it doesn't bother even to ask?

All we know is that when Massachusetts Medicaid changed its AP policy, GCN gave it no coverage. When Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Massachusetts changed its policy, it made page three. Bay State Medical: no coverage. John Hancock Insurance (a national change, by the way): page three. But when New York Medicaid changed their policy, it was front-page news. This makes New York seem so dynamic, and every place else seem like a big blank. So why bother fighting the AIDS battle?

Change is possible. It is possible here in Boston, in Massachusetts, and throughout the towns and cities of the United States. And to ignore what's been done in these places is to deny the role of activism, and to promote a sense of helplessness and of powerlessness where potential power exists.

Stephen Skuce
ACT UP/Boston
Boston, Mass.



Susan Wilson

Inspired wittiness from Bright Morning Star

Fine kettle of Fish, part I

Sweet and Sour. Bright Morning Star. Flying Fish, 1988.

By Caroline Foty

In the world of progressive/folk music, Flying Fish is a major label, one with a large catalog and the wherewithal to do many releases a year. A fine catch of flying fish recently landed on my doorstep ... among them, *Sweet and Sour* by Bright Morning Star.

This band is nuts. There are other ways of putting that: "stylistic versatility," or "wicked sense of humor." But what really makes this album special is its inspired nuttiness, which bursts out from in between the more serious songs.

Each side opens with a *cappella* music, and not quite as you might expect it: "Invasion of the Money Snatchers" and "Shopping Mall" explore the possible sounds that can be created by six voices, and go far beyond the realm of choir singing. But they can do that too: "Unkhumeli u-COSATU imbala" ("COSATU is our voice"), a South African trade union song, is handled with resonant sound, and sensitivity to the give-and-take of African singing that has been made famous in the U.S. by Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

The quasi-punk "Because You're Stupid" offers cathartic hilarity — you've always wanted to say that to the American

voter, right? And "Their Way," a retake on Sinatra's greatest hit, is the best political rewrite I've ever heard:

And now, my fine young friends, now that I am a full professor,
Where once I was oppressed, now I've become the cruel oppressor...
For what is a man? What can I do?
Open your books, read chapter two,
And if it seems a bit routine
Don't talk to me, go see the dean...

Sweet and Sour isn't all fun-and-games politics. Marcia Taylor's "Song for Wendy" is a touching affirmation for a friend fighting illness, sung in a voice particularly clear and pure — a voice that can also do a flexible blues turn in Quincy Jones' "Sister's Theme: Nettie Teaches Celie" (from *The Color Purple*). Charlie King's "So May We All" is a hymn for all who work for peace and justice; it has the emotional flavor of enspiriting congregational singing, an experience that doesn't have to belong only to the churches.

All these varying moods and attitudes are cunningly sequenced for contrasting moods, with the result that each is set off to advantage. This album is a good laugh and makes many good points, too. Happy tenth birthday, Bright Morning Star.

Future Fish: Fred Small, Patricia Shih, Flor de Caña. □

Bill

Continued from page 3

1988, Sen. Arthur Lewis (D-Boston), an opponent of the bill, chaired the Committee on Bills in Third Reading and held the bill for the maximum 45 days, preventing it from being voted upon in the Senate.

LaFontaine is less optimistic about the bill's chance in 1989. "Even if it passes the House, we're going to have a lot of problems in the Senate," said LaFontaine. "The opposition is escalating."

In an attempt to sway the House of Representatives to reject the bill, which bans discrimination based on "sexual orientation," opponents of the bill raised several issues which lobbyists have termed a "platform of misinformation." Some opponents testified that the bill endorses sex between adults and children, but pro-rights lobbyists disagreed and consented to an amendment to the bill which states that the bill is not in any way an endorsement of intergenerational relationships involving children.

Another argument, made by Marie Parente (D-Milford) was that the bill is a backdoor attempt by lesbian and gay activists to overturn the state's foster care policy that virtually prohibits lesbians and gay men from becoming foster parents.

Parente, who did not return *GCN*'s phone calls after the hearing, lobbied strongly to have the question of gay civil rights put before Massachusetts voters during the 1990 election in the form of a non-binding referendum.

LaFontaine said Parente "may single handedly kill the bill. We don't know what to do to stop her. She's doing as much damage in the House as Arthur Lewis did in

the Senate."

Isaacson told *GCN* that bill supporters have launched a statewide phone banking drive to urge members of lesbian and gay communities to call representatives who voted in favor of the bill. Because so much rests upon attendance at the reconsideration vote, said Isaacson, it is important to thank legislators for their support and urge them to vote again April 3.

LaFontaine added, "The key to the success of this bill ultimately will depend on the willingness of people to come out and identify themselves as gay to their legislators," said LaFontaine. LaFontaine lamented that the "Catch-22" is that discrimination against lesbians and gay men has resulted in most of the community being closeted. Yet in order to demand civil rights, said LaFontaine, a sizable number of lesbians and gay men must be willing to "tell [legislators] in detail what type of discrimination they've suffered." LaFontaine asserted, "a certain amount of courage is needed for social change." □

March

Continued from page 2

9:00 p.m., following a rally on the Common at 8:00 p.m. Round trip tickets are available from the Boston NOW office for \$50. Call Boston NOW at 782-1056.

Those who wish to march with Boston's Reproductive Rights Network (R2N2) in support of what R2N2 member Shelley Mains calls "a broad reproductive rights agenda" should meet April 9 at 11 a.m. at the Smithsonian Metro station near Twelfth and Independence Streets on the Mall side in front of the red Smithsonian castle building.

□ filed from Boston

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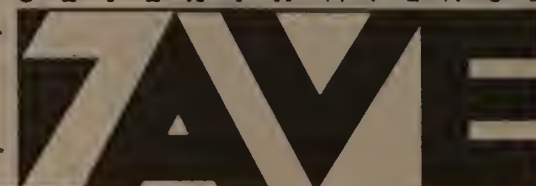


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Israeli legislator addresses NYC gay synagogue

Pro-gay Shulamit Aloni talks about gay rights legislation in Israel and the need for U.S. Jews to speak out for Palestinian self-determination

By Jon David Aloisi-Nalley

NEW YORK — Approximately 500 people crowded into the sanctuary of Congregation Beth Simchat Torah (CBST) — New York City's lesbian and gay synagogue — on March 17 to hear the controversial Knesset (Israel's national parliament) member Shulamit Aloni of Israel's Civil Rights and Peace Movement Party, known by its Hebrew acronym RATZ. Aloni is an architect of the recent and surprising Knesset action that amended British League of Nations Mandate-era laws penalizing homosexuality to legalize "homosexual acts between consenting adults." Aloni, who serves on the Knesset's Constitution, Law and Justice Committee, has long been a vocal supporter of Israel's lesbian and gay community. While there appeared to be widespread support among the audience for her views on the intrusion of Orthodox Jewish law into the lives of Israelis, the status of women, and lesbian and gay rights the reaction was mixed, at best, on her calls for justice for the Palestinian people. Aloni was the second Knesset member to address this large congregation, which has a reputation among lesbian and gay Jewish activists across the country for being less progressive on Zionist and Palestinian issues than other lesbian and gay Jewish groups. Dedi Zucker, a founder of "Peace Now" (Shalom Achshav) and also of the RATZ party, spoke here previously.

The first and for a very long time the only major public figure in Israel advocating the rights of lesbians and gay men, Aloni told *GCN* "I am struggling for human rights and equality. What bothers me is that [lesbians' and gay men's] rights were abused." As a lawyer and legislator (leading the five-member RATZ delegation to the 120-seat Knesset) Aloni said she felt her role was to change the criminal felony laws regarding sexual acts. Not considering this legislative change at all enough, she told *GCN* that she would like to see more widespread gains for minorities in Israel. While Aloni said she thinks Israel has retained some institutions of democracy — elections, partisan pluralism and the right of speech and assembly — she was critical of the discrimination faced by disenfranchised groups, like lesbians and gay men, Arabs and women. "Democracy means also, the right to be different and be treated with respect.... We don't understand the right, yet, to be different," she said. Israel's lack of a written constitution is a major factor in this regard, Aloni commented. Aloni has advocated adoption of a written constitution for some time, based on the model of Western European social democracy, to remedy Israel's lack of checks and balances.

Chiding the Orthodox Jewish religious establishment's opposition to decriminalizing homosexual acts, she remarked that nature could take care of itself without the help of government or police. She castigated the intrusion by the Chief Rabbis and Orthodox Jewish religious authorities into the lives of all Israeli Jews, referring to the "Rabbinate" as "most backward, fanatic, ignorant and power hungry."

For women in Israel, this system has been a roadblock to progress, according to Aloni. "As long as we have Orthodox Rabbis supervising matters of personal status such as marriage and divorce, women are discriminated against," Aloni told *GCN*. Because the religious sector-controlled family court system, using 3,000-year-old laws, treats women first as property of their fathers, then of their husbands, the status of a woman is as a "second-rate human being," she said. Aloni pointed out that the two women sitting on the Israeli Supreme Court cannot even serve as "proper" witnesses in, let alone serve on, family courts. Further, she pointed out the dangerous situation whereby the Rabbinate now uses computers to keep lists of women without proper religious divorces (a *get*) and children born to women without them (*mamzerim*) — who are without status under Jewish law.

This religious authority has proved problematic not only for lesbians, gay men and women in general, but also for Jews immi-

grating to Israel. Aloni cited the ironic situation of a Russian Jew who had spent three years in a Soviet jail for his desire to live in Israel as a Jew. When he finally got to Israel, the Rabbinate refused to register him as a Jew on his identity card (which can mean tremendous legal difficulties) — insisting that he undergo a ritual bath and circumcision because one of his grandmothers was not Jewish. "In Russia he was Jewish. In Israel he is a Russian," said Aloni. In her view, this power of the rabbis is becoming stronger, twisting Judaism and bringing the threat of religious fundamentalism, which she termed "signs from Iran," closer and closer to Israel.

On matters related to the Palestinian people and the occupied territories, much of the audience parted company with the gritty Knesset member. Aloni said she sees occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as Israeli greed. "We want their land," she said. "That is why we say we are afraid — we think we are superior." She added that she views this situation as contributing to the decay in Israel of humanistic morals and democratic values such as due process and basic rule of the law. While she said she is hopeful about a peaceful settlement with the Palestinians as long as Israelis can speak freely, she pointed with concern to incidents of harassment and intimidation aimed at Israeli journalists and a Knesset member who have spoken for the "peace process."

Optimistic about Palestinian adoption of United Nations Resolution 181, 242, and 388 (which, among other things, acknowledge the existence of Israel as a state), Aloni said no move is too late "when we speak of the future." She said she views the Palestinian uprising — the *Intifada* — as comparable to conflicts in Algeria, Vietnam and Afghanistan between subjugated people and "big strong nations." Aloni said she sees especially close parallels between the fanatic Gush Emunim Jewish settlers in the occupied territories and the colonialist French settlers in Algeria. Twice during her talk she pointed out that, according to Israeli law, pre-1967 borders *are* the borders of Israel, with the exceptions of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights which Israel has annexed. "If there is a land of two peoples, they should have equal rights," Aloni told the divided audience — one-third applauding, the rest silent. "Let's have our Israel in 1967 borders."

A vocal and bitter opponent of Israel's invasion of Lebanon and Israeli relations with South Africa and other repressive regimes, Aloni then decried U.S. support for the Contras and intervention in Latin America. "For us [Israelis], we should recognize the Palestinians," she added — with very few applauding this time. Aloni had expected this lack of support for Palestinian self-determination. She told *GCN* earlier that "American Jews are not so progressive when it comes to the rights of the Palestinians." While she commented to this reporter that she was glad to hear the recent flurry of more progressive voices from the American Jewish community, she felt it was not enough, adding that in Israel, the conservative voices of American Jews opposing Palestinian self-determination are the loudest. When asked by a member of the audience how to redress the imbalance on a practical level — other than going to rallies and writing checks to "Friends of Peace Now" — Aloni responded, "more of the same." In addition to calling for louder and bigger rallies, she told those in the synagogue that it was vital for the U.S. Jewish community to put pressure on the American Jewish leadership — particularly the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations. Aloni demanded that Jewish leaders in the U.S. that are critical of this government's policies to hold to the same standards and "stop seeing every Israeli prime minister as Pope."

After Aloni concluded, RATZ's U.S. representative Erel Margalit spoke of that group's position for peace in the Middle East and on the moral obligation of American Jews to speak out. "Discussion which

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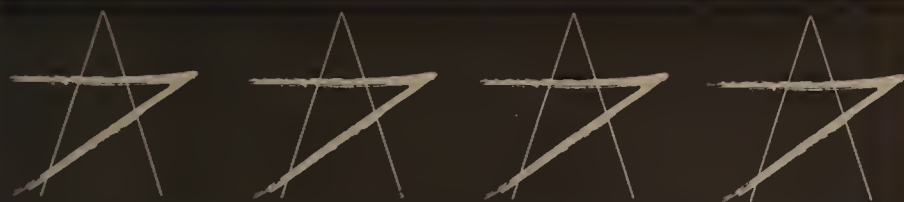
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Magnified photo of the germ that causes syphilis

By John Dooley

After various unsuccessful treatments for AIDS and a nearly fatal bout with pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP), John has been healthy for more than a year. Teddy, who suffered from Kaposi's sarcoma (KS) lesions and exhaustion, is now energetic and his lesions are stable. And the rash that covered Michael Smith's body, which "nobody had been able to do anything about that wasn't severely invasive or perhaps even life-threatening," has not resurfaced since mid-1988.

John, Teddy and Smith have undergone an inexpensive and non-toxic AIDS therapy that first boosts the immune system and then treats illnesses present in the body. One of these illnesses is syphilis, which some members of the medical community consider a major undiagnosed factor in AIDS. In the face of a losing battle against AIDS, Salvatore J. Catapano's immune-boosting typhoid vaccine therapy offers a ray of hope.

When Catapano set up a laboratory in the basement of his home in Valley Stream, Long Island, in 1962, he was fulfilling a promise he made to himself to study cancer. His father died of throat cancer in 1926, and two decades later his brother and sister were also dead. His brother suffered from pancreatic cancer, his sister from cancer of the cervix.

Catapano eventually focused on trying to conquer the disease by boosting the immune system. He tested various vaccines, but not until 1971 did he discover the tremendous immune-stimulating properties of typhoid vaccine.

This discovery motivated Catapano to seek a patent for an immune-stimulating cancer treatment. After two years of favorable trials at the National Cancer Institute, unsuccessful negotiations at pharmaceutical companies, and countless phone calls and letters to government officials, Catapano decided to refocus his patent application.

Finally, on Dec. 5, 1987, he received a patent to treat not cancer, but AIDS. Patent No. 4,711,876 states, in part, "It has been found that a complete immunization and remission of a person afflicted with AIDS may be achieved by the administration of typhoid vaccine with no observed toxicity."

People involved in Catapano's patent research, which started in October 1986,

were diagnosed with KS, extreme fatigue, weight loss and other conditions. The severity of KS lesions in some patients gradually improved, and no patient developed new lesions. After approximately 10 weeks of treatment, "most patients were capable of performing normal everyday tasks, including work," and they gained weight, Catapano said.

The results with KS did vary greatly, explained Miguel Cima, a doctor from Rockville Center, N.Y. Cima, who worked on the study with Catapano, said "It's not so simple with KS, it's not black and white." But, he added, even if the typhoid vaccine doesn't clear up all the lesions, it can lessen their severity and "improve quality of life." Besides, there is definite improvement in some people, he said.

Results with weight loss and fatigue were more promising — all participants in the patient study have maintained their weight and energy levels, according to Catapano. In addition, the count of white blood cells — part of the body's defense mechanism — increased for the group, as did the percentage of white blood cells called lymphocytes, which are instrumental in fighting infection or invasion by bacteria.

Syphilis — an undiagnosed factor in PWAs?

In the early days of his typhoid vaccine research, Catapano learned that before the advent of penicillin in the early 1940s, the vaccine had been used to treat another disease. That disease was syphilis.

While other medical practitioners attribute KS, PCP and other maladies in PWAs to infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), Catapano says that in many cases the illnesses are identical to syphilis ailments he treated during his four decades as a medical technologist in the Navy and for the U.S. Public Health Service.

Catapano does not stand alone in his belief that symptoms of syphilis, known as "medicine's great masquerader," are often mistaken for those of HIV infection. Fifty doctors are licensed to use his treatment procedure, or protocol, in the United States, and they are treating more than 300 patients. A handful of other medical practitioners in this country and Europe are working on similar theories.

SYPH WHAT'S

Valentine Birds, a doctor who has been using the protocol in North Hollywood, Calif. since June, is "very convinced that syphilis is a major factor in AIDS. I can't say it's the exclusive causative factor," he said, "but it's a key factor and one that we must consider as maybe a main causative factor."

Thirty to 40 percent of Birds' AIDS patients test positive for syphilis when he first sees them, but after being on the typhoid protocol the percentage jumps to 60 or 70. "This is telling me they have hidden syphilis," Birds said. "A lot of my patients come in with skin rashes they've had for a long time. We treat them with the typhoid, and then we treat their syphilis and the rashes go away."

Most of Birds AIDS patients receiving the typhoid treatment end up being treated for syphilis. In fact, some of them want to be treated for syphilis even though their tests are negative. "It's interesting," he said, "those people have symptoms that clear up. So there must be something I'm missing in the syphilis diagnosis."

As Catapano explains it, the blood tests commonly used to detect syphilis were not manufactured to be used on people with suppressed immune systems. These tests measure the body's ability to produce antibodies to the disease, they do not measure the presence of the bacterial organism — *Treponema pallidum* — that causes the disease. Unless the immune system is in a reasonably normal functioning state, it will not produce antibodies to the treponeme; and in diseases such as AIDS, the immune system is not functioning normally.

It is possible for people to test positive for syphilis after their immune systems have been stimulated by the typhoid vaccine, Catapano said, but many other people may have undetected syphilis.

Evidence cited to support the theory that syphilis may be a major undetected factor in AIDS includes an autopsy performed on 20 PWAs — all 20 were found to be infected with syphilis, even though only five of them were diagnosed with it while alive. In addition, "everything that shows up in AIDS and ARC shows up in late-staging syphilis," said Joan McKenna, director of the Basis Project, an in-depth syphilis screening program developed by the Institute for Thermobaric Studies in Berkeley, Calif.

The darker side of penicillin

Syphilis is divided into several stages. The first stage — primary — is associated with an ulcerated lesion called a chancre. Chancres are present at the point where *T. pallidum* enters the body.

"If the chancre is in a spot that's not noticeable, it may go undetected because it's a painless lesion," said Dr. Jack Moye, director of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. "Then the patient may have weeks or months of no symptoms at all as the syphilis organism is traveling by the bloodstream to other parts of the body."

Next is the secondary stage, "a generalized illness where people feel sick all over. They have a temperature, they feel like they have the flu," Moye said. This stage is also associated with swollen glands and a body rash. "People usually seek medical attention," Moye continued, "but if they don't [the symptoms] go away by themselves and they may have months or years of being asymptomatic before the stage of late syphilis, the stage associated with severe complications. It can affect any organ system of the body."

The syphilis that Catapano and other AIDS-syphilis theorists are especially concerned about may develop when repeated treponeme infections are not treated, or, more commonly, are mistreated with penicillin.

Before the advent of penicillin, syphilis was taken much more seriously than it is today, according to Robert Mitchell, author of "Syphilis Is AIDS: A Military Master-

piece," which is yet to be published. "Then syphilis almost universally disappeared from medical literature," he said. "When penicillin came out everyone assumed that it was a cure for the disease and it went down to a chapter in most books. Nowadays, you're lucky to find even 10 pages."

The standard dosage of 2.4 million units of benzathine penicillin prescribed for syphilis resolved symptoms of the disease, and physicians assumed they were killing the organism. This treatment, however, may never have been effective, according to McKenna. The antibiotics may have suppressed the expression of the disease without curing it, she explained.

In Europe, when people have syphilis infection they are treated very aggressively and their medical history is flagged, McKenna said. She recommends similar treatments for primary syphilis, including aqueous penicillin, and retreatment and reevaluation for two years on a regular basis. The person's medical history should be flagged for 50 years, so every doctor who sees a patient "must consider that what he's seeing could be recurring syphilis."

Kenneth H. Mayer, a doctor and research director at the lesbian and gay-focused Fenway Community Health Center in Boston and associate professor at Brown University, agrees that the standard U.S. treatment for syphilis is inadequate. "2.4 million units of penicillin is not good enough. There's a real good chance they haven't gotten all of the syphilis," he said. In addition, this dosage is not enough to pass the blood-brain barrier and attack the *T. pallidum* that may be present in the brain in the late stages of syphilis.

Mayer stressed that clinicians have to be educated to think about syphilis, and he suggests that more precise tests and more aggressive therapies for syphilis be considered for HIV-infected people. This is especially important when there is a possibility of neurosyphilis (a complication of late-staging syphilis), which may not show up on standard syphilis tests, he said.

The U.S. Department of Health's Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has also recognized the problem of misdiagnosis and mistreatment of syphilis. In the Oct. 7, 1988, issue of its *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, the CDC published a report that included recommendations for diagnosing and treating syphilis in HIV-infected people. The CDC indicated that tests for syphilis are not accurate for people "co-infected with HIV." Recommendations included administration of syphilis tests for HIV-infected people, and in cases where syphilis antibody tests are negative, the use of tests that directly detect *T. pallidum*.

Also, in a January 1987 editorial in the *Journal of American Medicine*, Dr. Mary Guinan, assistant director of science for the CDC, said the CDC had never evaluated the effectiveness of its recommended penicillin dosage. The editorial also acknowledged that the treatment may not be sufficient for HIV-infected people.

Penicillin, "that thing that was golden, like an angel from God," may be showing its darker side, Catapano said. "[Doctors have] overabused it so much that it's not going to work. It's losing its punch."

After the typhoid vaccine stimulates the immune system in the first stage of his protocol, Catapano uses penicillin to treat opportunistic infections. This immune stimulation is critical to the antibiotics' effectiveness, he said. "When you use penicillin alone it's going to bomb out. And acquired immune deficiency syndrome makes it twice as hard to work."

According to author Mitchell, "If you get repeated *T. pallidum* infections and you have compounding factors like antibiotics that are only treating symptoms, you can get this rampaging version of the syphilis that follows no rules and can kill you within a year or two."

Among gay men, syphilis was epidemic before the age of safe sex. According to

SYPHILIS AND AIDS: THE CONNECTION?

McKenna, there were days when the San Francisco Health Department estimated that 80 to 90 percent of the gay population had had syphilis.

Long before AIDS appeared, staff at the Fenway Community Health Center were telling people to get tested for syphilis two to four times a year if they were sexually active, "because it is so insidious," Mayer said. "There were a lot of people who were not attuned to sexual health issues, and they may have had syphilis in their bodies for 10 to 15 years and just be discovering it now. It's hard to say."

Success with the vaccine

According to McKenna, an unrecognized epidemic of syphilis among gay men today "is the tip of an iceberg" in relation to syphilis in this country. "We have to start doing something about it now."

Catapano agrees. While he does not claim that his protocol is a cure for AIDS or syphilis, he thinks it can help PWAs and people with other immune-related illnesses stay healthy. By stimulating their immune systems, it helps them fight off opportunistic infections, he said.

"What we're hearing at HEAL [Health Education AIDS Liaison] is that the most resounding success in treating AIDS and PWAs with syphilis is going on with Catapano," said Gene Fedorko. Fedorko is the president of the New York-based HEAL, which has been providing information and support for alternative and holistic approaches to AIDS and related conditions since 1982.

Birds, who has treated about 110 patients with the typhoid vaccine, is also having success. "Trying to be conservative, about 60 percent of them have clinical improvements," he said. "They feel better, they look better, their laboratory tests are showing improvement." The remaining patients don't respond for a variety of reasons, he said. Many of them are simply "too far gone" in the process of the disease. He added that immune-suppressing drugs, especially the highly toxic AZT, inhibit this or any other treatment.

"I'm convinced you go on AZT to die," he said. "Typhoid, on the other hand, is a positive situation.... We're using it as a holding pattern until something better comes along."

Terry Pulse, of Dallas, was the first doctor licensed to use Catapano's treatment. He received the license on Jan. 4, 1988. The first 13 patients that Pulse treated with the vaccine did not respond well, "because most of them were terminal KS patients," he said. Others had been treated with AZT or chemotherapy that had "knocked out their immune systems." Since then, the criteria for the protocol have been widened to include people with AIDS-related complex (ARC). "Generally, the results are very good now," he said.

Where's the medical establishment?

Despite the success of doctors using the protocol and despite Catapano's claim that 60 percent of the more than 300 people he has treated are "doing well," the medical establishment — including government health agencies, medical schools, hospitals and most doctors — has generally not responded favorably to his protocol.

People who see a link between AIDS and syphilis are waiting for the medical establishment "to wake up and start asking questions," McKenna said. "The government said it doesn't get involved until there's a national issue, when more states and health departments are moving on this. We started talking to them about it in 1984."

It's difficult to get the U.S. Public Health Department involved because "the ramifications are horrendous," Mitchell explained. If the government health agencies start doing research and realize they've been wrong about syphilis since the 1940s, "they could be looking at national class-action lawsuits."

But government liability would not stop with syphilis, according to Mitchell. If health agencies are wrong about the syphilis-AIDS connection, they also have to admit that billions of dollars have been wasted and thousands of deaths could have been prevented.

Drug companies have billions of dollars at stake, too, HEAL's Fedorko said. Burroughs Wellcome, for example, made \$176 million last year on the sale of AZT. Originally developed as a chemotherapeutic agent for cancer, AZT failed to receive FDA approval in the late '60s because it was too toxic. Now it's being used as a treatment for AIDS. "When there's billions of dollars involved, you have to really start questioning people's motives," Fedorko said.

Another aspect of the economics concerns penicillin, which could help combat syphilis and opportunistic infections in PWAs. Penicillin is generic, and it is very inexpensive. Typhoid vaccine also costs very little. "Just figure it out," Catapano said. "Where are the pharmaceutical companies going to make money?"

Money, or lack of it, is also an issue for researchers who do not share the medical establishment's views. Most research is connected to large institutions, where little dissent is tolerated when it comes to questioning what causes AIDS, McKenna said. There are too many reputations riding on the perceived competence of their methods, she added.

Catapano also criticizes the tendency in the medical community "to go according to the establishment.... The doctors are not questioning anything the government or drug companies are doing." He noted that a leading French research institute, which he declined to name, is interested in examining his protocol.

Going according to the establishment is not a new problem, the AIDS-syphilis theorists say. Since Louis Pasteur discovered bacteria, Western medical science has clung to the idea that single agents are the cause of infectious diseases. When AIDS came along, "the percentage of PWAs with HIV

was so high that there are understandable reasons why well-intentioned people could have focussed on HIV as a prime candidate," said Bob Lederer, co-founder and co-chair of ACT UP/New York's Alternative and Holistic Treatment Subcommittee. There was also "a bureaucratic predisposition toward retrovirus research" as a result of the war on cancer's focus on retroviruses in the '70s, Lederer said, "and that bias has influenced research priorities."

Lederer predicts that at some point "despite all the vested interests that argue against admitting the syphilis connection, they'll have to balance that against what they're going to lose if they don't take that action."

The data controversy

Doctors who do not embrace Catapano's theory often cite the lack of data to support his claims. Anecdotal reports of successful treatments are not enough, they say. Although some would like to know more about the treatment, they say they need to see the data "written in a reputable medical journal." "For me to evaluate his protocol, I would have to see the evidence that it has been looked at in a randomized, placebo-controlled manner," said Robert Rolff, medical epidemiologist in the CDC's Sexually Transmitted Disease Division.

AIDS activists say there is no reason to wait. It has been more than two years since Catapano treated his first patients, they say, and most of them are still doing well. They admit that Catapano would be serving the interests of the medical community by publishing his data, but disagree that studies should be completed before the protocol is accepted, at least on a conditional basis. It is non-toxic, they add, and the health of Catapano's patients is sufficient evidence to use the protocol while more elaborate studies are conducted.

Catapano plans to publish data with a group of doctors using his protocol in May or June, he said.

Some doctors also claim that the typhoid vaccine, as an immune booster, might cause

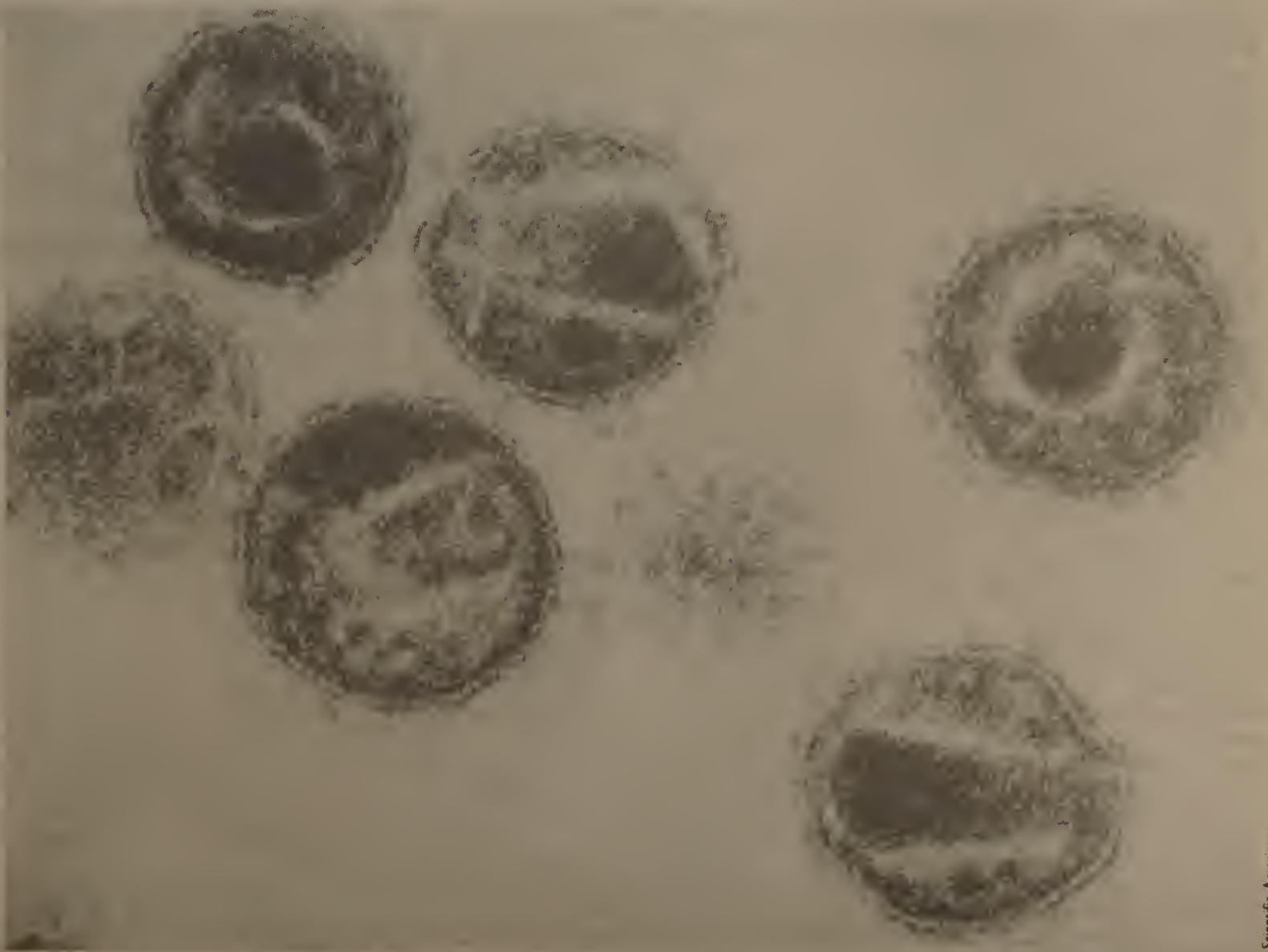
HIV to replicate faster. "HIV lies latent for years, then it gets kicked up. We don't understand if that's because of a herpes infection, stress or other stimuli," Mayer said. Until now, when immune-boosting drugs have been given without something to suppress the virus, they have not been successful in treating people with AIDS, he added. There is no data, however, that substantiates this relationship between typhoid vaccine and HIV, according to the PWA Coalition, in New York.

Although most members of the medical establishment do not believe that syphilis is a major factor in AIDS, they say proponents of this theory may have played a vital role in combatting sexually transmitted disease. "They may have helped to focus attention on the problem of treatable diseases in patients with HIV infection going undetected," said Moye.

There is much concern about syphilis altering its course in people coinfecting with HIV, he added. A number of case reports demonstrate that syphilis is "unusually severe, rapid and refractory to treatment" in HIV-infected people. Mayer, too, warned of the "very strange ways and severe manifestations of syphilis" in the HIV-positive population. "There are well-documented articles now suggesting that the kinds of syphilis that weren't seen since before the antibiotic era have been seen in people with AIDS. It's because syphilis, like a lot of other infectious agents, can be more virulent when a person's immune system is suppressed."

Concern over HIV and syphilis infection has prompted two studies at the CDC. One will try to determine whether syphilis is more severe in people infected with HIV, and it will examine the effectiveness of various treatments and diagnostic tests in people infected with HIV. The other study will investigate the possible role of syphilis as a cofactor for transmission of HIV. "The evidence is reasonably persuasive that it is a cofactor for acquiring HIV infection because of the genital ulceration," Rolff said.

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Photograph of microscopic HIV particle

Syphilis

Continued from centerspread

Moye explained that since AIDS and syphilis are sexually transmitted diseases, it would be reasonable to assume that people could be infected with both, especially because the genital ulceration (chancre) characteristic of syphilis presents a portal of entry for HIV. Moye also pointed out that both diseases have been extremely common among gay men. Like most members of the medical establishment, he considers this relationship coincidental. As Rolff put it, "It's hard to rule out whether genital ulceration may have been a cofactor, but I think it's just as likely, maybe more likely, that the same people who are at high risk of acquiring syphilis are at high risk of getting HIV." Due to the high risk of coinfection, and the possible rapid progression and severe complications of syphilis in HIV-infected people, Moye cautions patients and medical providers to be aware of the manifestations of syphilis. In addition, he said, "If I were HIV-infected, I would be tested for diseases like syphilis and tuberculosis, which can be treated and even cured if they're treated early enough."

Teddy, John and Michael

The first person to be treated with Catapano's typhoid vaccine was Teddy, in October 1986. In addition to KS lesions and exhaustion, he suffered from chronic sore throat, swollen glands and thrush (a mouth disease caused by a fungus). After six weeks on the protocol, all of these conditions, except KS, were gone.

"Sal's typhoid vaccine works," Teddy said. "If you get to him before you've taken AZT and the rest, it can build your immune system. Otherwise it's very hard."

When John decided to try the typhoid vaccine protocol in January 1988, he was desperate. He had undergone an AIDS treatment that did not work for him and "felt like if the vaccine didn't help, it couldn't hurt. None of my blood was in the normal range." Now, "I have no doubt whatsoever that it has saved my life," he said. John's blood work is now in the normal range, except for his T cells, which are still low. "Everything else has turned around, which is pretty amazing," he said. Currently on a maintenance program with Catapano, John has gained 31 pounds, and except for a minor bout with strep throat, occasional episodes of fatigue and a skin condition on his elbows, he said he feels great. He's had no major opportunistic problems since he began the protocol.

The most serious opportunistic infection that Michael Smith has experienced since his diagnosis with AIDS in July 1987 is PCP, also known in syphilis as white lung pneumonia. Smith, a stockbroker and AIDS activist, said that his history of syphilis "is really quite astounding."

He contracted syphilis for the first time around 1963, when he was 19. In 1972 he was again diagnosed with primary syphilis and given the standard dosage of benzathine penicillin. In 1974, he also "came up positive" for primary syphilis. Over the next three years, Smith said, he visited a clinic two more times and was diagnosed with early latent syphilis, "which meant the syphilis had been in my body for a while and was still in there. I was treated in the same way."

Since 1977, Smith's syphilis has been in hiding — he has not been able to produce a reactive blood test result for syphilis. "I think I was undoubtedly running around with syphilis but my immune system was going to hell," he said, "and I suspect somewhere around '77 I was exposed to HIV if it is a separate thing."

When Smith went to New York in February 1988 to give a lecture on AIDS and syphilis, he met about a dozen Catapano patients who "raved about it," he said. "I decided to take the typhoid vaccine because I had the body rash. I had had it for four months and nobody had been able to do anything about it.... Catapano said it looked like secondary syphilis."

"I went on the Catapano protocol in February '88. It took a while — about three months after that, the rash was in complete remission, and it has stayed that way," Smith added. "If you are dying and somebody tells you there's a possibility that typhoid can delay your death or that massive doses of penicillin can delay your death, do you want to give it a try or do you want to take AZT and know you're going to die? I've always said I would do anything provided it shows promise and it's non-invasive."

And we know how penicillin works," Smith said. "I'm not going to keel over and die." □

Agenda

Continued from page 3

an agenda for the next five years. The participants were expected to carry back to their respective communities and constituencies some common goals and implement them in whatever ways were feasible. The session was coordinated by Phill Wilson (BGLLF) and Angela Bowen, co-chair of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG). Bowen conducted the roundtable. A sense of urgency drove the group, which worked diligently to set the following agenda around six issues:

- **Health:** "To develop materials and strategies which will enable us as a Black Lesbian and Gay community to identify, define and actualize comprehensive modes of mental and physical well-being."

- **Media:** "To establish and promote positive imagery of Black Lesbians and Gay men. Also to monitor and hold accountable all media and Black entertainers for responsible portrayals of Black Lesbians and Gay men."

- **History/Culture:** "To establish a Black Lesbian and Gay task force to identify and impact upon Black historical societies, to acknowledge and uphold the Black Gay and Lesbian personhood of Black historical figures, past and contemporary. To support all our existing efforts at establishing or developing positive Black Gay and Lesbian cultural historical identifications, archives, and historical societies."

- **Politics:** "To contribute to the quest for greater political clout of the Black community in order to advance our issues as well as to counter growing right-wing reaction by working to elect or have appointed at least 20 openly-gay or lesbian Black officials. To increase our ability to counter attacks against our rights by seeking greater mutual support with other Black organizations, developing a national emergency response network, and supporting other organizations or issues targeted by right-wing reaction."

- **Networking:** "To support the creation of caucuses by Black Lesbians and Gay men within Black professional and political organizations, such as the National Medical Association, the National Conference of Black Lawyers, the National Black Nurses Association, the National Dental Association, the Urban League, the NAACP, and other similar organizations."

- **Spirituality:** "To enhance the spiritual quality of our lives by focusing on the various spiritual traditions in our communities, by establishing Black Lesbian and Gay churches, spiritual communities and networks, and by educating existing spiritual and religious bodies about Black Lesbian and Gay concerns and spiritual issues."

The final agenda document will include statements of intention in several areas, including: a focus on serving as role models for Black youth and as mentors for Gay and Lesbian youth; working for a national health plan; assuring that Lesbian health — particularly Lesbians with cancer — is attended to. The language in the document is still being finalized. Upon submission to and approval by the roundtable participants, Black Lesbian and Gay communities across the country will begin working toward these goals. □

Priest

Continued from page 3

Director Carol Brill said that at the April 7 ceremony honoring Craig (6:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Tara Hotel in Framingham), "We will be handing out, as we do at all our meetings, a copy of our legislative agenda, including support for the gay rights bill, which has been a priority for years.... We would rule nobody out as a potential candidate for foster care."

Nevertheless, MASS ACT OUT is contemplating whether some kind of protest is warranted. Some activists are hoping that social workers attending the NASW ceremony will simply turn their backs when Craig receives his award. □

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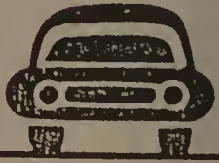
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Dykes to Watch Out For



City Hall

Continued from page 1
users waiting for treatment in San Francisco."

Street theater

The demonstration began at 7:00 a.m. and lasted three hours at the east side of City Hall. Over 600 baton-wielding New York police, many on horseback, surrounded the picketers. One daring ACT UP member, Peter Staley, unfurled a huge Silence = Death sign on the scaffolding of an adjacent building. Staley raised his fist to the protesters far below who cheered his efforts.

Continuing the anti-Koch theme, protesters sang "beat back that Koch attack, we're going to beat that Koch attack" and held photos of Koch that read: "10,000 New Yorkers Dead of AIDS, How'm I doin'?" referring to a phrase popular with the mayor. "Living with AIDS three years 11 months, no thanks to you Mr. Koch," read one sign. "Bury, Bury, Bury your head/that's the mayor's scene/no money/no clue/no worry/no where/AIDS is but a dream" sang the protesters to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." "If you get any deeper into the developers' pockets, you'll reach their socks," said another sign.

One ACT UP contingent toted dazzling silver and pink placards that read: "The Healing is happening." Michael Miles of ACT UP explained that the signs were designed to show that healing happens in many "non-traditional ways." "There are many ways to survive, and not all are strictly medical. This action is part of the healing process for many of us." The group passed out literature that read in part, "There are people living with AIDS for as long as it has been known as a syndrome. Some are in remission, others are in the process of healing. Most people who have tested positive for HIV do not develop AIDS."

At 8:30 a.m. the first wave of affinity groups — Cher!, Dada, and the Box Tops among them — blocked the exit to the Brooklyn Bridge, as angry drivers blared their horns and swore at the protesters. Several successive waves of protesters blocked both the entrance and exit to the bridge causing traffic to back up for several blocks. Police charged the protesters with resisting arrest and/or disorderly conduct and released all but two by the afternoon. Court appearances for those arrested are scheduled for May 10. Many of the women who were arrested were subjected to strip searches by

women police officers. According to Signorile, the women were forced to pull down their pants and underwear and squat in front of other women being detained.

Signorile told GCN that the New York Police Department "seemed to have our strategy figured out. It never became a grave traffic situation like we had hoped. In the past they were confused by our waves of protesters. They would arrest group A, while B and C would slip in around the corner. This time they preempted us. We may have to work out new CD strategy [for future actions]."

Still, said Signorile, the demonstration was a tremendous success. "It was an amazing turnout. There were more people than at the [Oct. 11] FDA [Food and Drug Administration] demo and at our Wall Street demo [last year]. And the media really picked up on it." The demonstration received considerable local coverage and Cable News Network broadcast it live nationally. Signorile credited ACT UP's outreach committee for bringing in the large turnout.

The diversity of the demonstrators was much better than in the past, commented Signorile. The outreach committee placed full-page ads in *City Sun*, a Black weekly newspaper, and *El Diario*, a weekly for the Latino community. "Usually we run around looking for someone who speaks Spanish to talk to the Spanish speaking press. This time I found myself in a group of people, and I was the only one speaking English," said Signorile.

Signorile was also pleased by the turnout of clubgoers. "I used to be at the clubs all the time because I was a gossip columnist. I mean some of the people at the demo had never seen the light of day. They must have come straight from the clubs to the demo. I couldn't believe what some of these people looked like in daylight," laughed Signorile.

ACT UP also stuffed *New York Times* vending machines on the morning of the demonstration with a parody of the *Times* called the *New York Crimes*. The four-page paper included stories titled "N.Y. Hospitals In Ruins; City Hall to Blame.... Koch Fucks Up Again," "Women and AIDS: Our Government's Willful Neglect," and "Koch City Plans: AIDS Deaths Help Gentrification."

"Part of the success of the demo was that we hyped the ads as much as the event. In a sense, the ads were an action in themselves. We put out press releases about the ads and had the media doing stories about the ads, not just the action. It was a great way to get publicity and distribute information," said Signorile. □

Anatomy

Continued from back page

challenge the system: maybe you *can* break the law; maybe you *can* challenge oppression. We're bringing up new issues and a different way of thinking about the world. Even if they don't go to the demo," Frisch continued, speaking about the afternoon's participants, "they have thought about different methods of confronting and engaging other people about the things they believe in."

Reactions to the CD training were mainly positive, although many expressed apprehension about the realities of arrest and jail that had been raised. Barbara Katz, a first-year law student at City University and a newcomer to ACT UP, more or less confirmed Frisch's contentions. "I know a lot of gay men, several of whom are HIV positive, and that has made an impact on me," Katz said during lunch. "I'm concerned about the quality and dignity of the lives of the people who have to live with this disease. I'd like to see some more money for AIDS," she continued, noting that AIDS is a "really large issue in the mayoral campaign." Mayor Edward Koch is running for reelection to a fourth term this fall. "The personal thing for me is getting over my fear of breaking the law and what happens if I do," Katz went on, moving from AIDS issues to those raised at the afternoon's CD training. "Taking direct action is one way of exploding the myth of the American Dream: [you're told] that if you play within the system, that you'll get everything you're entitled to. That's just not true."

Michael Jenkins, a painter from the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood in Manhattan who said he had been with ACT UP for a year, but never before participated in civil disobedience, said during another break, "My anger has gotten to a point that it's time to do more than just demonstrate. I'm apprehensive, but there's a sense of community that comes from finding other people are feeling the same way I am." Jenkins said he hoped the demo would enable a wider group of people to become aware of the far-reaching impact of New York's lack of AIDS funding.

Meanwhile, back at the poster party, author/playwright Larry Kramer, one of the founders of the Gay Men's Health Crisis, and of ACT UP itself, was busy creating props for his own affinity group's statement. On a dozen or more poster boards, he had glued color photocopies of a recent *Newsday* front page, the headline of which read, "Koch: 'I'm heterosexual'." Each poster was also hand-lettered with the name of an (in)famous personality: "And *I'm* Anna Magnani," "And *I'm* Melina Mercouri," "And *I'm* Cary Grant," the posters exclaimed.

"No longer will we allow closeted gay people to work against us," Kramer told *GCN*. "Why should one gay man make all his brothers and sisters his victims, by not doing anything about AIDS? We have to be willing to say that we are proud of being gay, and we won't tolerate closeted gay officials." Calling Koch a liar, Kramer said, "The question is his honesty," implying that if he lies about his sexual orientation, he may lie about other things as well. Koch has denied being gay, and endured questions about his sexual preference for his entire political career. Kramer has long maintained (and continues to do so, through his latest media interest in Koch's affectional proclivities) that Koch is gay, and says that he knows of ex-lovers of the mayor, and of a "cabal" of gay elected and appointed officials who know that Koch is gay, and protect that information.

Sandy Katz, another affinity group member, had a different take on the project. "The point is ridicule. Nobody cares whether Koch is heterosexual or homosexual. We're ridiculing the fact that he even makes an issue out of it."

Later in the day, an as yet unnamed group of activists whose approach to demonstrating focusses more on spirituality than anger, according to Michael Miles, its coordinator, also met at the Center to plan a "grounding ceremony" at City Hall on Tuesday morning before the demo. The now legendary (at least among ACT UP/NYers) Delta Queens affinity group, formed in New Orleans at the ACT UP protests there during the 1988 Republican Party Convention, met as well. And at 9:30 in the evening, whoever else was not completely exhausted met to spend the night wheatpasting and "doing outreach."

According to Mike Signorile, the ACT UP Media Committee chairperson, the

outreach effort for Tuesday's demo was unprecedented. There was a mass wheatpasting of thousands of posters and flyers, in both English and Spanish, including a series of "Twelve reasons to ACT UP on March 28th." ("Reason #6: City AIDS shelters will be ready three years after most of the people they're meant for are dead.") Full page ads ran in *The Village Voice*, *El Diario*, a Spanish-language daily, and the *City Sun*, a Black community paper based in Brooklyn. Above a photo of Koch and a row of tombstones, the text read, "What does Koch plan to do about AIDS? Invest in marble and granite." The effort also included: a poster blitz of Broadway between 125th Street and 168th Street in Harlem; pink palm cards with demo information reading "I want you" handed out in weekend evening "bar raids" (both men's and women's); and the "bat signal," a slide projector, powered by a rip-cord generator, used to flash ACT UP's "Target: City Hall" logo on the sides of buildings and blank billboards around the city, as other ACT UPers emerged from a convertible jeep to leaflet the crowd that inevitably formed.

Whether or not city AIDS funding increases, AIDS awareness outside of the gay and lesbian community broadens, or Koch is really in the closet remains to be seen. What is already clear is the sense of community and empowerment engendered by these and other AIDS issues, as evidenced by the sheer number of people becoming involved in reacting to them. While ACT UP regulars were more likely to express confidence, and first-timers more likely to voice uncertainty about the efficacy of their confrontational tactics, all spoke of a commitment to the demonstration, and a need to "do something" or "do more" about the (lack of) funding and quality of city-run AIDS treatments and services. Lisa Wildman, a 19-year-old first-year student at SUNY Purchase, made her first contact with ACT UP at Saturday's CD training. Wildman, who spent the day practicing giving interviews to the press, going limp in the face of arrest, and coming to consensus about whether to allow smoking in her jail cell, said towards evening, "I don't know if things like this get a lot accomplished, but I'm willing to give it a try." □

Peptide T

Continued from page 3

tients, who, according to the Fenway, "have experienced weight gain, a decrease in neurological symptoms and an overall sense of feeling better." Peptide T will be more accessible through the Fenway clinical trials, however, because participants will be able to self-administer the drug intra-nasally.

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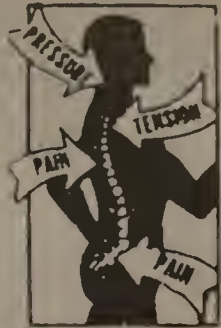
For more information about participating in the clinical trial, contact Jane Kaatz or Ken Trask at the Fenway Community Treatment Center at (617) 267-7573. □

Aloni

Continued from page 7

will affect the character of the Jewish state should extend to the whole of the Jewish people," he remarked — at which a member of the audience heckled that Israelis should speak for themselves.

The U.S. office of the Israeli Civil Rights and Peace Movement (RATZ) is located at 576 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1103, New York, NY 10036. □



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LF and personable cat seek LF to share our spacious apartment in gay-owned house with yard near Green and Orange Lines. No smoking, min. alcohol/drugs. \$400-plus. Call 524-7917. (37)

GM seeks LF or GM for nice but small room in beautiful 7 bedroom house near Green St. in J.P. \$300 starting May 1. Call eves. 524-9927. Ask for Paul or Chris. (37)

RUN TO YOUR PHONE!

Don't delay! 3LF seek 4th for beautiful JP home. Friendly, semi-cooperative no smoke or chemicals. Cat negotiable. May 1. 220-plus, 522-0637. Hurry! First 10 callers may qualify for date with Lily Tomlin! (37)

JAMAICA PLAIN

2 LFs seek 1 more for JP apt. We are looking to create a home. We are political (not correct), artistic, creative funny womyn open to diversity. No drugs or smoking min. booze. Cats are negotiable. Rent \$270/250 depending on room you take and utilities. Available March 1st/ASAP. Call 524-7190, Susan or Sally. (37)

Newtonville: 2 LFs seek LF for housemate situation semi-coop, fireplace, yard, parking, half bath. No alcohol, drugs, smoking, \$350plus. Last month's rent. 965-0648. (37)

HOUSING WANTED

SUBLET OR HOUSESIT FOR MAY AND/OR JUNE!

This L.F.'s pigdog landlord just *TRIPLED* her rent. I need short-term rental 5/1-6/30 or any part thereof. (Help!) 354-7938. (37)

APARTMENTS

DORCH MELVILLE PARK

Newly renovated two family two bedroom two fireplaces, new kitchen and bath, \$650. Spacious three bedroom includes second and third floor \$850 call for more details. 825-0583. (38)

LYNN — SWAMPSCOTT

Beautiful 1 BR apt. Steps to beach. Walk to train, 2 stops from North Station. Nice yard. Parking. \$675 includes all utilities. (508) 744-0959. (37)

PVT. HOME SO. NH 2ND FLOOR 4 RMS.

South of Manchester, professional G M/F preferred. Lovely home and private yard. Seeking individual who appreciates country setting, clean home and quiet surroundings. \$650/mo. references. (603) 432-7189. After 6pm or anytime weekends. (37)

FOR SALE

ATTENTION — GOVERNMENT HOMES from 51 (U-repair). Delinquent tax property. Repossessions. Call 1-602-838-8885. Ext. GH 6433. (37)

FOR SALE

Noted Black woman writer's home in Staten Island, NY. Contat HEMA and IRIS at 718/727-6900. (40)

VACATIONS

GAY COUNTRY INN

Spend long, lazy days by our pool, cool nights by a crackling fire or in our hot tub. 100 acre mountain setting with golf, tennis, hiking, antiquing nearby. HIGHLANDS INN, Box 118G, Bethlehem, NH, 03574. (603) 869-3978. Grace and Judi, Innkeepers. (17.8)

VACATIONS

SPRING FLING at Greenhope Farm. Only \$40 per night* per couple. Includes delicious, full breakfast. Come away to our special world in the woods. Lesbian owned/operated, horseback riding, baby goats. Only 3 hrs. away. Call 802-533-7772. *GCN readers special.* (37)

ALL MALE!

FLORIDA — HOLLYWOOD HOUSE RESORT

A tropical setting located in central Hollywood, Florida. Minutes from bars and beach. Rooms, efficiencies, 1-2 bedrm apts. Low nitely, weekly and monthly rates avail. Pool, clubhouse, and laundry facility. Call (305) 920-2372. (41)

GCN SPECIALS

DICTIONARIES NEEDED!

The average educational level of prisoners is junior high school (meaning that many haven't even finished elementary school). Both because they have "time" now and because they need to understand the pretentious "legalese" and other language of the system, they need dictionaries.

Please consider keeping an eye out for "deals" and picking up a few for us to send out. THANKS!

GCN News and Features writers need cassette recorders. If you have a working one that you're not using, or want to donate one, it would be well used. Thank you.

PUBLICATIONS

GAYELLOW PAGES

INFORMING THE GAY COMMUNITY SINCE 1973 Accommodations. AA groups. bars. baths. bookstores. businesses. counselors. dentists. doctors. hotels. lawyers. mail order. media. publications. organizations. religious groups. services. social groups. switchboards. therapists. travel agents etc etc etc (area codes and zip codes too!)

USA & CANADA \$10

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY \$4.50; includes Manhattan bar notes & women's section

SOUTHERN EDITION \$4.50; Alabama Arkansas N & S Carolina. Florida. Georgia. Kansas. Kentucky. Louisiana. Mississippi. Missouri. New Mexico. Oklahoma. Puerto Rico. Tennessee. Texas. Virginia

NORTHEAST EDITION \$4.50; Connecticut Delaware. District of Columbia. Maine. Maryland. Massachusetts. New Hampshire. Ohio. Pennsylvania. Rhode Island Vermont. W Virginia

Renaissance House, Box 292GCN Village Station, NY, NY 10014 212-674-0120. All books discreetly by first class mail. your name kept strictly confidential To list a business or organization, or for further information, send stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope Please contact us for prices outside the USA. In Canada, order from Glad Day Books, 598 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1Z3 416-961-4161 (check for prices)

Ask us about Gayellow Pages on mailing labels!

LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree—who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1.50; sub \$6; more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, #263G, SF, CA 94114. (16--)

The Second Stone. Gay Christians — Engaging features and columns, news from Gay Christian groups. Newsbriefs/Calendar/Book Review. Retreats, travel and new friends. \$12.50 for 6 issues. (1 yr.) to P.O. Box 8340, New Orleans LA 70182.

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OFF OUR BACKS

Lively, down-to-earth feminism in the nation's oldest women's newjournal. Analysis, reviews, conference coverage, and news — on health, feminist theory, reproductive rights, civil rights, and political work among working, disabled, incarcerated, old, and poor women, women of color, lesbians, and women from every continent. \$15/11 issues. Trial sub: \$4/3 issues. oob, Dept. GCN, 2423 18th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009. (ex)

WOMEN'S REVIEW OF BOOKS

monthly review of current feminist writing. Since 1983. Our readers span the U.S., Canada, and abroad. Subscriptions: \$15/U.S., \$18/Canada, \$25/institutions. Free sample issue on request. THE WOMEN'S REVIEW, Wellesley Women's Research Center, Wellesley, MA 02181. (ex)

BLACK/OUT

Special 10th Anniv. edition of Black/Out now available. This bi/annual magazine from the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays contains essays, reviews, poetry, news and announcements concerning the Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy \$6 plus \$1 postage. 1 year subscription (2 issues) \$10 to Black/Out c/o NCBLG, 19641 West Seven Mile, Detroit, MI 48219. (ex)

OUTRAGEOUS WOMEN

A journal of woman-to-woman s/m. Fantasy, analysis, erotic art and much more. Sub: \$13/four issues. Single issues \$4. Must state you are over 18. SASE for info. PO Box 23, Somerville MA 02143. (ex)

WOMAN OF POWER: "A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics," an inspiring international quarterly publication. Subscriptions \$22 for 4 issues; singles issues \$6 plus \$1 postage. P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238, telephone (617) 625-7885. (ex)

ON OUR BACKS, the sexual entertainment magazine for lesbians, is 48 pages of erotic fiction, features, plus timely sexual advice and news columns. We are quarterly, national, unique and provocative. \$15/yr sub or \$5 current issue to: On Our Backs, PO Box 421916, San Francisco, CA 94142. (ex)

ORGANIZATIONS

MUSICIANS!

The Lesbian & Gay Freedom Trail begins its Pride Season April 11. Rehearsals every Tues., 7:30pm at the YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. (Copley Sq.). All welcome. No auditions. For more info contact Joe: 625-3304, or Zoe: 396-2989. (38)

OLDER LESBIAN ENERGY

Social and support group for women over 40. P.O. Box 1214, East Arlington, MA 02174. (15.48)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 584 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (16.1)

BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH

Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed. night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons meeting at 6:00. Women's meeting at 6:45. Call 523-7363 for info. (15.32)

MAN/BOY LOVE

Intergenerational Love Support Group. World wide news, art, opinions. Application, information free. Bulletin \$1.00 NAMBLA, P.O. Box 1923, St. Louis, Missouri, 63118. (7)

Prisoners Seeking Friends

TO ALL THOSE, IN & OUT OF PRISON,
WHO FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE.
Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist

IMPORTANT!

Prisoner readers!!!

We have not received letters telling us that you are getting GCN alright from the following people. These names will be cancelled from our free list if we don't hear from you by April 15. (Really!)

01701-McGuinness, S. Brown, Dietrich, Phillips
02056-Gaviorno, Starrett; 02324-Archambault,
Dusenberry, Gagnon, Nolin; 02920-Coulter, Dooley,
Wilcox; 04618-O'Neill; 04730-Castonguay;
06071-Wright; 07065-Valentine; 08625-Lutalo, R.
Young; 12582-Bagarozzy, Stuckey; 12929-Duncan, A.
Wilson; 12977-Montana, Taylor; 13021-L. Wright;
14011-Agard, Bryant, Rodriguez; 14079-Lee;
14902-Campolito, Griffin, Knier; 15233-Dandar;
17011-Snyder; 17756-Haskins, Talley; 17837-Langley,
Wilson; 18612-M. Williams; 19426-T. Jones;
20794-Dorsey, Foster, Myers, Schmidt, J. Wood;
21202-Trimble; 23063-Bailey; 23868-Powell;
23917-Austin, Nduma; 23936-Goins; 24121-Shannon;
24910-Povlish; 25330-Humphreys; 26041-Byrd;
27212-Williams; 27509-Crigger; 27606-Thomas;
27845-Beckley, Chamberlain, Melvin, Price, Purser,
C. Smith; 27887-Eason, D. Thomas; 28396-Winston;
28677-Spruill; 30316-Stephenson; 30499-Gould, Men-
doza, Norman, Waters, D. Wood; 31213-R. Anderson;
32014-Wilkinson; 32083-Harris, Latessa; 32324-Anglin;
32424-B. Smith; 32663-Hitchcock, A. Jones;
32711-Lefort; 33024-B. Johnson, G. Gibson, McCorm-
ick, Morin, Parker; 33821-Cognard, Johnson;
33825-Butler,Everson; 34956-MacNeil; 37219-Strouth;
38738-Rasco; 40511-Wallace; 43040-K. Williams,
Zytowicki; 43302-Clark; 44901-Bolden;
45036-Snodgrass; 45699-Day, Gant, Hackett, A.
Jackson, Jenkins, Prater, Stone, Sullen, Thomas,
Williams; 45802-Le'lton, Ware; 46064-Burton;
46201-Johansen, Parrott; 46227-Ahner;
46360-Grossenbacher, Iletinuke, Murphy, Stone;
46818-Sherry; 48160-Ponchik; 50169-Sherztz;
52205-Hersberger; 52627-Gregory, Guy, Long,
Morgan, Richmond, Suddeth, Torrez, Williams;
55082-Love; 56302-Brown, Irby, James; 60420-Russell;
61401-Coates; 62259-Martinez; 62959-Beverly, Col-
omb, Fowler, Kirkland, Neal-Bey; 63003-Garrett;
63640-Allen, Goude, Luster; 64601-Williams;
65102-Abram, Proffitt, Shoppell, Vandiver, Wycoff;
66043-Coberly, Ellenburg, Jordan, Lohrbach, Morris;
67504-Trimble; 68502-Skinner; 68509-Donehower;
70426-Smith; 70712-Hagood, Meduzia, Melton,
Perkins, Ramos, Serrano; 71040-Maness, Taylor;
72168-Heffernan; 73036-Simmat; 73547-Brick;
74501-Hughes; 74502-Honeycutt; 75501-Malone;
75851-Bolton, Currier, Evans, Finney, Fornaro, Hay,
Nowell; 75852-Hernandez, Sherman, Woodard;
75861-Coats, Collinsworth, Gee, J. Johnson, Quick;
76528-Buckley, Clouse; 77002-Butler; 77340-Dove,
King, Rooks; 77343-Nash; 77583-Bradford, Brown,
Goodin, Teague, Wolverton; 81212-Barnes;
83707-Parrott; 85232-Goodyear; 89701-Carlson;
89702-Florez, McGregor; 91708-Fanning; 93010-Leason;
93409-Bellone, Vidal; 93436-Osterhout;
93561-Gambord; 94521-Bowman; 95701-LaSalle;
97801-McClafflin; 98272-McCollum, Mead; 98584-Dunn;
99362-Friend, Godfrey.

It's possible that some of you Did send your let-
ter and the CHEAP labor power here fucked up.
Sorry about that, if so. But STILL—Send us a card.
QUICK, letting us know you're still there and getting
it



IMPORTANT

28 yr old Italian, looking for special friend,
love dance, opera, art and antiques. Educated.
Born in Queens, NY. Anthony CARAC-
CIOLO, 87-77295, 1321 NW 13th St, Miami
FL 33125.

My friends call me 'Trena'. I'm 25, like camp-
ing, swimming nude, and sex of all kinds.
Thank you for the copy of Front Runner that
you sent. It was beautiful! Greg DAVIS,
417552 (B2-I-17), Huntsville TX 77349.

Hi! I'm in the hole and could use a few letters if
you could find the time to write. They took my
address book away so I don't have the ad-
dresses of people I used to write either. (Do you
hear me Darrell from Dayton?) If I were in a
position to help, I'd do the same for you. Jerry
RAGLAND, 17324-009 SHU, Box 1010,
Bastrop TX 78602.

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Any time of the day-any day of the year.
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236-1848



I am a Gay female in for my first time and have
made many friends here. Many average Joes
who do drugs and need counseling rather than
caging. We spend a lot of time playing cards.
I'd like to hear from someone out there. Kim
HALL, 234978 SE-1-78, 1901 D St SE,
Washington, DC 20003.

My nickname is 'Midnight Rider'. I'm 30, Sag,
in search of a sweet, fun, good sense of humor,
lady. I've been gay 16 years and I'm butch!
Please write. Rebecca FERRIS, 119089, Box
26, St Gabriel LA 70776.

GBF, 42, attr/reas. intell, tired of 'potential',
prison, poverty, & pretensions; am seeking a
friend to help me start my new life again.
Release due 2/90. Am interested in music,
writing, prison issues, presently studying for
Assoc. degree in law enfor. tech. Cannot write
other prisoners. Clarissa ALLEN-WHIT-
FIELD, Box 180—6907, Muncy PA 17756.

Habla Espanol!

I'm a black Cuban and my favorite thing is
music and dancing. I'm in the INS camp and I
need some contact with Spanish speaking gays.
Please write the lonely Pedro. Pedro Her-
nandez ORIA, 765 McElroy St, Biloxi MS
39530.

I'm in a hard place at this time and seeing your
paper and reading about all the brothers and
sisters out there brought me a little shelter from
the storm. I'm presently in isolation due to my
homosexuality and would like to write to so-
meone who understands that I am a person too.
Thank you all for your support! Jeff FIES,
41083-061, Box 33, Terre Haute IN 47808

Would you please place my name on the "need
a letter" list? Who knows, maybe I can
brighten someone's day! (and they brighten
mine with theirs!) Thank you very much,
Patrick EARL, 20149-148 Box 1000,
Lewisburg, PA 17837.

Gay man in need of some TLC. Any age or
race. Very lonely. Please write Billy
(Snowflake) FIRSTLER, 159724, Box 45699,
Lucasville OH 45699.

I'm 34 but people say I look 25. I have aburn
hair and am rugget but good looking. I like
rock music, sports, and am looking for some-
one to care for and be cared for in return. I'm
not out to hurt anyone, only find happiness.
David SEIBERT, 87250, Box 128, Eddyville
KY 42038.

30 yr'old gay man, Latino, muscular build, avid
reader, seeking friendship. Johnny TORRES,
C-08909, Box 689 No.232, Soledad CA 93960.

Likes footballs and flowers

I am Black, Scorpio, a student of psychology
and social work and pretty upfront. I like
music, football, photography, growing
flowers, painting and would like to write to
someone. Clifton ROBERSON, 83251 4BKS
29, Star Rt Box 22B, Tucker AR 72168.

Italian and French descent, bottom (few kinks),
looking fr a caring, affectionate man who is not
an overly suspicious person, and who will help
me because of love and trust. I am not a gold
digger, but I'm also not doing great and have
small general needs. Channing BAYLISS,
160899, Box 97, McAlester OK 74502.

Seven inches of throbbing hot hard flesh, lots
of hot thick rich creamy yummy cummy, want
to hear from Bis, TVs, TSs, GMs any age. If
your going to write 2 or 3 letters and then stop,
don't even write. I'm into painting landscapes,
writing stories and general rap. Let's hear from
some forreal people out there. Please send
stamp-embossed envelope for faster reply. Tom
M. BLANKENSHIP, 195-152, Box 45699,
Lucasville OH 45699.

Nurse Edwards wants a friend

I would like to correspond with someone. Any
race. It doesn't make a difference. I'm 30, light
skin, nice body. I do a lot of reading and jogg-
ing. Study nursing at this time. I'm a very
sincere person. Would like a photo if you have
one and would send mine too. Bobby J. ED-
WARDS, 795938, Box 699 (W-N-57), Sneads
FL 32460.

Age 33, very openminded, have a beautiful
understanding. Would like a penpal. Wilfred
JOSEPH, 87241, Camp J Cuda 4L10, Angola
LA 70712.

I pass your paper along when I'm thru. Some
'strait' guys read it too. Though the way they
look at me when I take showers I don't know
how 'strait' they are (smile). I'd like to write a
gay man. Not for game playing but for becom-
ing a real friend. Terri MINER, 189074, Box
45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

Calendar



6 Thursday ☐ Rock and blues performer Dianne Davidson and her band appear at Nightstage. 823 Main St., Cambridge. Two shows — 7:30/9:30pm. Tickets \$12.50.

Please note: Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos with listings are encouraged. Please specify if your event is or is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted.

I Saturday

Boston ☐ **Am Tikva Dance.** Swing to the Music of Cheek to Cheek. YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 9pm \$10/advance \$12/door. 782-8894.

Cambridge ☐ **Amethyst Women's Dance.** Square Dance with caller Cindy Green. 7 Temple Street. Wheelchair accessible. 8:30-11:30pm \$5 more/less. Alcohol/Drug free event.

Boston ☐ **Boston Gay Men's Chorus with special guest Nancy Armstrong.** Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory. Sign language interpreted. 8pm. \$18. 14, 9. 482-2527.

Medford ☐ **Lesbian and Gay Activism in the 1990's.** Speakers: Angela Bowen, David Scondras, Ann Sanders, Kevin Cathcart. Tufts U. Cabot Auditorium. 1-4pm. \$5 for the day. Dancing in evening. 629-9768.

Cambridge ☐ **The Women's School.** Perestroika and Women. 11am-12:30pm. Also, Stress Sense for Women, 11am-2pm. Is PMS Part of Your Life?, 11am-2pm. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

2 Sunday

Somerville ☐ **Gays and Lesbians of Somerville and Surroundings** Potluck Dinner. 7pm. Mike, 628-2643.

Boston ☐ **March on Washington for Reproductive Rights** is next Sunday. Call NOW for bus info: 782-1056.

Arlington ☐ **Somerville, Medford, Arlington** lesbian potluck. Alcohol-free. Info: 666-3508.

Somerville ☐ **Lesbian teachers and administrators** over 35, potluck. New group forming. Info: 625-6364.

4 Tuesday

Boston ☐ **Gay Fathers of Greater Boston.** Fathers in a gay World. Lindemann Center, 25 Staniford St, Revere Room. 8-10pm. Info: 742-7897.

5 Wednesday

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse.** Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7pm. 354-8807.

Framingham ☐ **Gays and Friends of Framlingham State College.** Rap group on coming out. Alumni House, Adams Rd. behind O'Connor Hall. 7pm.

6 Thursday

Boston ☐ **GCN's production night.** All welcome. Proof-reading: begins 5 pm. Paste-up: after 7PM. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Cambridge ☐ **Dianne Davidson and Band,** appearing at Nightstage. 823 Main St. Two shows, 7:30pm/9:30pm. Tickets \$12.50, available at Nightstage, New Words, Arborway Video, Ticketron.

Boston ☐ **Mass Choice Auction,** Appalachian Mountain Club, 3 Joy St. 6:30pm-9:30pm. 720-1880.

7 Friday

Cambridge ☐ **Reena Bernards** on "Feminism meets Nationalism: The Role of Women in the Palestine-Israeli Conflict." Black Rose lecture. MIT, Building 66, Rm.110. 734-9348.

Brookline ☐ **Swingtime Boston Dances.** 185 Corey Rd. Near T stop at Beacon and Washington St. 8:30pm.-12am. Alcohol and smoke free.

Boston ☐ **GCN mailing.** Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5pm to 10pm. Near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 426-4469.

8 Saturday

Boston ☐ **Give Peace A Dance.** 12-hour dance marathon and pledge event to benefit peace and justice organizations. Hynes Auditorium, 900 Boylston St. 1pm-1am. Info: 868-5259.

9 Sunday

Washington, D.C. ☐ **March for Reproductive Rights.** It's happening today. Call NOW for bus information. 782-1056.

Boston ☐ **Downtown Lesbian Group Brunch.** Call Joan for info: 266-5169.

Boston ☐ **Massage for men,** with Jason Deneault. Bring towel, lunch and bathing suit. Boston Center for Adult Education. 10am-5pm. \$50.00. Registration: 266-8584.

Boston ☐ **Boston Strikers soccer team** season begins. MIT athletic fields off Vassar St. in Cambridge. 12:30pm. All skill levels welcome. 547-8049.

Jamaica Plain ☐ **J.P. Lesbian and Gay Neighbors** potluck. First Unitarian Church, Eliot St. at the monument. 4-7pm. Alcohol-free. 522-8070.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Saturday

Boston ☐ **Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** training session for work on 24-hour hotline. 617/492-RAPE.

Cambridge ☐ **SANCHIN Women's School of Karate and Self Defense** for women of all ages, abilities. YWCA, 7 Temple St. 3-5pm. T.-Th. 6-8pm. 617/547-3889.

Boston ☐ **Living With AIDS Theatre Project** workshop. No performance experience necessary. Club Cabaret, 209 Columbus Ave. 10:30am.

Boston ☐ Women's Self-Defense Collective offers **Women's Self-Defense Classes** for all ages and abilities. Meets Wed. eves., Sat. afternoons in South End. 617/574-9433.

Boston ☐ **Gay Boston,** with Jim Voltz. Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. 7:30-8pm.

Sunday

Boston ☐ **Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY).** Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. Sunday drop-in: 2-5pm. 617/354-6658.

Boston ☐ Metro Healing **healing group** for everyone. Metropolitan Health Club aerobics room, 209 Columbus Ave. 7:30-9:30pm. 617/426-9205.

Boston ☐ "Boston's Other Voice," radio for the gay/lesbian community. 3/26: Marilyn Waring talks about her book **If Women Counted**; 4/2: Women's music and info on how to support the gay rights bill. 11pm. WROR 98.5 FM.

Boston ☐ **The Gay Dating Show,** WUNR 1660 AM. 2:30am. Lesbians and gay men.

Monday

Boston ☐ **Straight Talk About Disabilities.** M/W nights at 7:30pm, Channel A-22.

Cambridge ☐ **Healing Circle** group healing. 5 Upland Rd., Porter Square. 7:30-9:30pm. \$5 suggested. 864-1989.

Boston ☐ **Alcoholics Together,** les/gay group holds a free discussion meeting Mon.-Fri. at Gay & Lesbian Health, 180 Cambridge St. 12-1:30pm. 617/227-8353.

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Rap.** Topics: 4/3, Paganism and witchcraft; 4/10, Friendship; 4/17, Night Out; 4/24, Roles in Lesbian relationships. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Free. 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Boston ☐ **Tax Resistance Clinic.** First Mon. of every month. 7-9pm. Community Church, 565 Boylston St., Copley Sq. Sponsored by New England War Tax Resistance. 731-6139.

Tuesday

Boston ☐ Gay and Lesbian Support Group for **Adult Children of Alcoholics.** Faulkner Hospital. 8:30-10pm. Intake interview required. 522-5800 x1908.

Boston ☐ **Lesbian and Gay Concert and Marching Band.** No audition necessary. YWCA, 120 Clarendon St. 7:15pm. Joe 625-3304, Zoe 396-2989.

Cambridge ☐ **The Group.** Walker Memorial MIT on Memorial Drive. 266-1129.

Providence, RI ☐ **ACT-UP/Rhode Island** open meetings. Rocket, 73 Richmond St. 7pm. Bill, 782-9063.

Roxbury ☐ **ACT UP/Boston** meets to confront the AIDS crisis. Room 345, Bldg. 3, Roxbury Community College. 7:00pm. 49-ACT UP.

Cambridge ☐ **Bisexual Women's Rap.** 4/4: Lesbianism; 4/11: Class differences; 4/18: The artistic impulse; 4/25: Butch/Femme. Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-10pm. 354-8807.

Cambridge ☐ **30-plus Lesbian Rap.** 4/4: Coming out at work; 4/11: Intimacy with Friends; 4/18: Self-esteem; 4/25: Celibacy. 7-8:30pm. The Women's Center (see above).

Wednesday

Boston ☐ **Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth.** Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6pm; women and men meet separately 6:45-7:30; general meeting at 7:30pm. 354-6658.

Boston ☐ **Bisexual Children of Alcoholics.** Mass. General Hospital, lower amphitheater (next to emergency room entrance). 7:30pm. 259-1559.

Boston ☐ New group forming for **lesbians who have been sexually harassed at work.** Wed. or Th. 492-7273.

Cambridge ☐ "Say it, Sister!" radio program. WMBR, 88.1 FM. 7-8pm.

Boston ☐ **Women's Self-Defense Classes** for women of all ages and abilities. See Sat. listing.

Cambridge ☐ **Lesbian Al-Anon** with childcare. Women's Center (see above). 6:30-8pm.

Cambridge ☐ **MASS ACT OUT** meeting. M.I.T., Building 66, Rm. 126. 7:30pm. 661-7737.

Thursday

Northampton, Mass. ☐ **Valley Gay Alliance** meets 1st, 3rd Th. every month, basement of the Unitarian Church, 22 Main St. 7:30pm. 413/527-5310

Jamaica Plain ☐ **Free Window Workshops** — learn to fix broken windows with the Boston Building Materials Co-op. 171 Green St. 1-6:30pm, 9-1:30pm (Sat). 524-1984.

Stoneham ☐ **Incest Survivors' Group** for women. New England Memorial Hospital, 5 Woodland Rd. 5-6:30pm. Sara Epstein, 979-7025.

Cambridge ☐ **Wise Woman Tradition Herbal Medicine and Women's Wisdom Classes.** Sliding scale. Whitewolf, 277-8232.

Boston ☐ **Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Cambridge ☐ **Incest Survivors Group** Women's Center (see above). 7:30-9:30pm.

Friday

Worcester ☐ AIDS Project-Worcester **support group** for HIV positive, PWAs, PWARCs, supporters. Open to all lesbians and gay men. 51 Jackson St. 7-9pm. Dana 508/755-3773.

Boston ☐ **Healing group** for everyone. Santa Fe Hair Salon, 528 Tremont St. 7:30-9:30pm. 426-9205.

Cambridge ☐ **Incest survivors group on death and grief.** Short-term. Women's center (see above). 7pm.

Cambridge ☐ **Women's Coffeehouse.** 4/7: Storytelling with Susan Warner; 4/14: Urban folk music with Lori Goldsmith; 4/21: Open readings by older women; 4/28: Music and song with Janet Schmeltz. Women's Center (see above). 8pm-midnight.

CALENDAR COMPILED BY NAOMI STEIN

By Andrew Miller

NEW YORK — On March 25, the Saturday preceding ACT UP/New York's City Hall demonstration (see story, page 1), the Lesbian and Gay Community Center on West 13th Street — where ACT UP had reserved a half dozen rooms for the day — was abuzz with activist activity. Downstairs, seasoned AIDS activists with a knowledge of street protests and an eye for visuals conducted a poster party. In an impressive display of assembly-line activism, over 500 posters and picket signs were magic-marked, mounted, pasted down, smoothed out and touched up. While a tape deck played "Soldier Boy," "You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman," and "Baby, If I'm the Bottom, You're the Top," ACT UP members stacked Silence=Death posters and placards with bloody hand prints all over the main assembly hall of the center to dry. Oversized card-houses stencilled with activist opinions ("Ed: You're Doin' Lousy"), and smelling vaguely like a second-grade arts and crafts class, sprang up under the early spring day's warm sunshine in the center's garden as well.

"People with AIDS are fighting back," Tim Powers told *GCN*. "The posters are a rallying cry for people who are sick of sitting around support groups and who want to get out and fight for their lives." The demo's reluctant poster captain continued, taking a cigarette break from mixing wheat paste in a portable blender he said he had clandestinely borrowed from his roommate. "We have the technology to stay alive," Powers added, shifting from blenders to pharmaceuticals. "Now people have to fight for access to that technology." Powers made clear that he was in charge of the posters only until 7:30 Tuesday morning, because he planned to be arrested shortly thereafter.

Meanwhile, upstairs in the auditorium, over 40 people — many of whom had never been to an ACT UP meeting or demo previously — attended a 6-hour civil disobedience (CD) training in preparation for the March 28 action. CD virgins included journalist Jim Revson, a columnist with *Newsday*, a New York City and Long Island daily. During a discussion of personal motivations for attending the demo, Revson told the group of trainees, "It was time for something less intellectual, time to put my



Obviously well-trained CD participants at City Hall demo

Ben Thornberry

Anatomy of a demo

From the artistic pursuits of sign production to the seriousness of CD training to the excitement of the "bat signal" outreach technique, a behind-the-scenes look at preparations for a fracas for 3000

body on the line, to do something [about AIDS] without having to say anything." Revson has written about AIDS and ACT UP in the past.

The trainees were soon forming "hassle lines," "oppression triads," and other CD rites of passage. They also made their first consensus decision: whether or not to allow the press to remain at their training. (They consented.) The novice CDers were led through the process of planning a CD action, carrying it out at a demonstration, being arrested, going to jail, and appearing in court. They learned about being arrested the hard way — by playing cops and activists taking turns going limp and dragging each other out of the "street" and across the floor of the auditorium. Although some of the strategizing on the part of the "police" was impressively cop-like, ("Let's get the women separated first," "Should we try baiting them? Like saying, 'Hey, faggots, get up?'"), most of the trainees made uncomfortable-looking law enforcement officers.

"I liked being a resister more; it was much more realistic," one participant commented. "Do we get a choice to be cops or demonstrators on Tuesday?" asked another. As a general lesson in dealing with oppositional authority, Gregg Bordowitz, one of the training session's coordinators, told the group, "Your collective will is much more powerful than the individual actions you make."

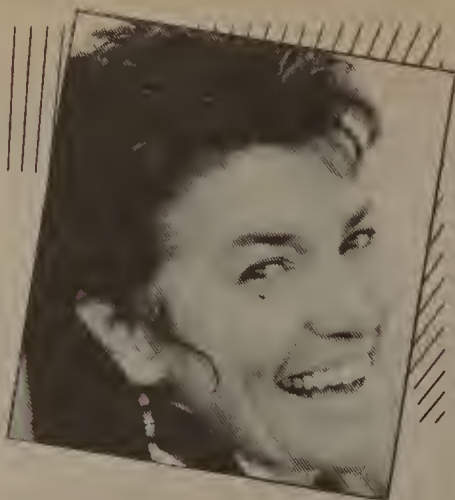
On the top floor of the building, Jean-Elizabeth Glass, a veteran ACT UP head marshal, was also instructing new marshalling recruits on the niceties of dealing with the police. "Be persistent, be loud, and be polite — if you can be nothing else, try to be those things," Glass loudly but politely advised. "The voice you want is that voice from your childhood saying, 'Spit out that gum now.'" Whether it works with the police or not, Glass, at least, had the attention of everyone in the room.

"It's big, and that's exciting," Mike Frisch said of the size of the day's CD training session, which he facilitated along with Bordowitz. "Because of the proximity of the action, we have people's attention," he told *GCN* during the lunch break. "It's important to show people ways that they can

Continued on page 12

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